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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 207 | FRIDAY AUGUST 31, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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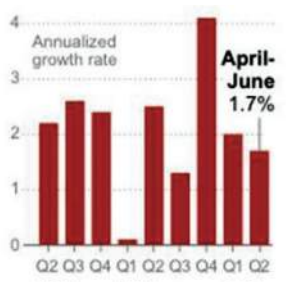
OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you think the House minority bloc will eventually have the numbers to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS



The U.S. economy grew at a tepid 1.7 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, suggesting growth will stay weak in the second half of the year. ➤ PAGE 21

NATION

A 100-year-old man backed his car on to a sidewalk and hit 11 people, including nine children, across from an elementary school in South Los Angeles just after classes had ended Wednesday, authorities said. ➤ PAGE 22

LIFE & STYLE

FX is ordering 90 more episodes of "Anger Management," Charlie Sheen's TV comeback vehicle after being fired from "Two and a Half Men." ➤ PAGE 25

'$190M power deal won't have upfront cost to CNMI'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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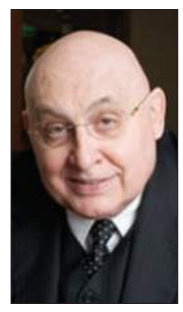
REPORTER

» Saipan Development LLC plans Saipan visit in September

Saipan Development LLC co-founder David Mahmood said the $190.8-million power purchase agreement won't have an upfront cost to the CNMI government and would be much more cost-effective than operating the existing power plant in Lower Base in the next 25 years, but lawmakers remain critical of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham's secretive signing of the deal and want a full economic analysis before any decision could be made.



Mahmood

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*, Mahmood revealed details about his and SDLLC co-founder Don Kurz's plans in the CNMI that included not only a 50-megawaty diesel power plant but also a shipyard and construction of a new hotel, among "various projects."

He also said Saipan Development LLC plans to return to Saipan in September "to complete the details of the

See $190M on Page 4

Senate, Rep. Yumul join lawsuit opposing power purchase deal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Quichocho obtains copies of agreement with Saipan Development signature

The Senate and Rep. Ray Anthony N. Yumul (R-Saipan) have joined Rep. Janet U. Maratita's (Ind-Saipan) lawsuit that seeks to stop the alleged $190-million power purchase agreement entered by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC.

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho,

See SENATE on Page 4

Public-private partnership pushed for destination enhancement initiatives

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, sixth from right, leads other island leaders and business executives in the ceremonial shoveling of gravel at the peak of Mt. Tapochao yesterday morning, officially kicking off the beginning of the Mt. Tapochao Rehabilitation Project. The $48,000-project is a result of a public-private partnership involving the Marianas Visitors Authority, Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and the Tournament of Champions.

By CLARISA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Three months from now, Mt. Tapochao would have undergone a dramatic transformation as the rehabilitation project for Saipan's highest peak kicked off yesterday morning in a groundbreaking ceremony where government officials and business executives touted the value of public-private partnership in enhancing the island as a tourist destination.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos led administrators of the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and Tournament of Champions, as well as other elected officials withstood being drenched at the mountain summit for the ceremonial shoveling of gravel which officially marked the

See INITIATIVES on Page 4

Social Security bill now law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With the target transition date of Oct. 1 drawing near, acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed into law yesterday a milestone House bill expressing the CNMI's desire to have the U.S. Social Security program extended to government employees only a day after the Senate passed it during a record nine-hour session.

House Bill 17-312, authored by House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), is now Public Law 17-79.

In an interview a few hours before signing the bill into law, Inos said he would immediately communicate with the Social Security Administration as soon as the measure becomes law.

"We're pretty much in the final stage. Mr. [Jim] Stump and I will be communicating with the Social Security now… I'm happy. This is progress, and this will pave the way for eventual reform of the DB [defined benefit] plan essentially by moving… active members from the DB plan on to Social Security," Inos told reporters yesterday.

The Fitial administration wants to transition government employees to the Social Security program, as part of the plan to address mounting concerns about the financially troubled NMI Retirement Fund. The governor placed the NMI Retirement Fund under a state of emergency.

Inos

The U.S. Congress

See LAW on Page 4

'Hospital rate hike excessive, unaffordable.' PAGE 2
5 marine sports operators accuse Tasi Tours of litigating them to death. PAGE 6

Local

INSURANCE COMPANIES SAY:

‘Hospital rate hike excessive, unaffordable’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Officials of the health insurance industry in the Marianas yesterday labeled as “excessive and unaffordable” the proposed rate increases at the Commonwealth Health Center.

This was echoed by plan administrators of various health insurance firms, including Calvo’s Select Care’s Frank Campillo, Moylan’s NetCare’s Jerry Crisostomo, Staywell’s Francis Santos, and TakeCare plan administrator Tim Ogata during yesterday’s NMI Chapter of Society of Human Resource Management general membership meeting at the Pacific Islands Club’s Charley’s Cabaret.

» 30% hike on member premium, policy changes eyed

This early, they warned the public of a potential increase of up to 30 percent in their member’s premium, changes in existing coverage, and possible reduction of services if the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will not reconsider its move to hike fees.

The corporation approved last week an emergency regulation that increases hospital fees and charges which will take effect 120 days after publication in the Commonwealth Register.

“The proposed rates appear to be excessive and will affect the community deeply. We’re [insurance industry] mindful that CHC may need some rate relief, but they also need to do it in a manner that will not gravely impact the community,” Campillo told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that the corporation can start the rate increase slowly, for example, by enforcing this year a 10-percent, across-the-board hike on all services.

“Perhaps, they can do it again after a year. So, if you will combine these rates in two years… it will give them 20 percent increase. That’s something, for us, is more manageable for the population,” he said.

Though he assured that Calvo’s will still be around despite the potential rate increases, Campillo said they are very much worried on its negative effect on the community.

“It’s not the question if we will still be around, the real question is: will the people of CNMI be able to afford this potential rate increase? That’s the major concern we have and we’re hoping that the corporation will bring the rate to a manageable increase,” he said.

NetCare’s Crisostomo, for his part, said the new rates will be challenging for the industry as it will lead to the raising of premium rates for members.

Under Obama Care which was signed in March 2010, insurance firms are not authorized to increase rates of more than 10 percent. Any proposal beyond this percentage must be approved by the federal government.

Factor in the proposed rate increase of up to 300 percent at CHC, Crisostomo said, this will mean passing on to their members an average of 25 to 30 percent increase in their premium charge.

See HOSPITAL on Page 4

Jury, Inos find Guiao guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Superior Court jury rendered yesterday a guilty verdict to Carmelita Guiao, a woman accused of running over with a car her former common-law husband in Upper Miha, Garapan.

After deliberating for several hours, the jurors reached a unanimous verdict finding Guiao guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos, who decided on misdemeanor charges, found Guiao guilty as to the charges of hit and run, reckless driving, pedestrian right of way on sidewalk, operators to exercise due care, disturbing the peace, and criminal contempt.

Guiao’s sentencing in this case as well as in her previous case will be on Sept. 18, 2012.

On Wednesday, Inos dismissed the charges of attempted murder and aggravated assault and battery after Guiao’s counsel moved for judgment of acquittal.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister told the media after the hearing that the maximum penalty of assault with a dangerous weapon is 10 years in prison.

McAllister said for both cases, Guiao is facing over 20 years in jail.

Assistant attorneys general Shelli Neal and Margo Brown prosecuted the case.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer in an interview said the jury spoke and they respect that.

“We still think that what happened down March 11, 2012 was an accident. But it’s that that decision is not ours and we have to live with it,” Meyers said. Assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti served as Meyer’s co-counsel.

Police said the hit and run incident occurred in Upper Miha, Garapan in the early morning of March 11, 2012.

Police said investigation showed that Guiao chased her common-law husband and struck him with her car by running him over. She then fled the scene.

The victim suffered multiple injuries to the body and legs.

On Aug. 1, 2012, a jury found Guiao guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon for attacking the same victim with a hot frying pan on Dec. 31, 2011.

Inos, who presided over the misdemeanor charges, found the 33-year-old Guiao guilty as to the charges of assault, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Inos found the defendant not guilty as to four counts of disturbing the peace involving the minors.

Emergency session makes technical amendments to $114M budget bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) called an emergency session at 5pm yesterday to make "technical amendments" to the $114-million budget bill they passed the night before, mainly to remove a provision merging the Departments of Commerce and Labor.

» Inos reminds lawmakers of Sept. 30 deadline

Senators said the inclusion of the two departments' merger in the final version of the fiscal year 2013 budget bill was just an "oversight."

Manglona

They said there were at least three versions presented during their Wednesday session that lasted nine hours, resulting in the passage of the wrong version that included the Commerce and Labor merger.

"It's an oversight. The merger provision was not supposed to be there; if the intention was to have it in the final draft, we would have discussed it during the session on Wednesday," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* last night.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, in a separate interview yesterday, said lawmakers have only a month or up to Sept. 30 to work on a bill acceptable to both houses or the constitutional provision on a government shutdown kicks in on Oct. 1.

Inos hopes that a bicameral conference committee would be able to "iron out the differences and pass the budget and hopefully a budget that we can live with."

Senate vice president Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) separately said the technical amendments to the budget bill were adopted by a vote of 7-0.

The two senators absent yesterday were Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian). San Nicolas was present during Wednesday's session.

House Bill 17-313, House Draft 10, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1 is on its way back to the House of Representatives.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), in a separate interview, said for three years in a row, the Senate has been making substantial changes to the House bill that senators know wouldn't be acceptable to the House.

Basa, author of the budget bill and chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the House leadership wants to know, for example, where the Senate got the money that was added to the budget of the Public School System.

"Resources are limited and every time you give additional money to an agency, someone's budget has to be cut," Basa said, adding that he has yet to see the Senate's version of the budget bill.

Basa said as Ways and Means chair, he expects to be on the bicameral conference committee for the third time. Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) is also expected to lead the Senate conferees.

Members from the House and Senate will work on a "compromise" budget bill that needs to be passed and signed into law by Sept. 30 or the government will have to partially shut down again until a budget package is in place. Lawmakers also won't get their salaries until they pass a budget.

Among the major changes that the Senate made to the budget bill were giving more funding to the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and Medicaid reimbursement compared to the House's proposal.

PSS, for example, got the $33 million it asked for from the Senate, whereas the House gave it only $28 million which is also lower than the governor's proposal of $30 million.

Senators also gave $300,000 each to Saipan and Rota for retroactive salary payments, and set the Finance secretary's salary at $60,000 for FY 2013.

The government's revised projected revenue available for appropriation in FY 2013 is $114 million, an improvement from the FY 2012 budget of $102 million but is still back to the level of some 20 years ago.

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SENATE

From Page 1

counsel for Maratita, filed yesterday an amended complaint to include the Senate and Yumul as Maratita's co-plaintiffs.

The Senate joined the lawsuit as a body, while Yumul, a representative of Precinct 3 Saipan, joined the case for himself and on behalf of the CNMI taxpayers.

Acting attorney general Viola Alepuyo, on the other hand, substituted former AG Edward T. Buckingham as one of the defendants in the lawsuit.

As this developed, Fitial and Alepuyo, through counsel assistant attorney general David Lochabay, yesterday informed Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman that they don't oppose to the issuance of preliminary injunction.

The preliminary injunction in this case enjoins defendants Fitial, Buckingham, CUC, and Saipan Develoopment LLC under the same terms and conditions as they are currently restrained by the temporary restraining order that the judge previously issued.

With Lochabay's announcement, yesterday's scheduled preliminary injunction was brief. Quichocho appeared counsel for Maratita, Yumul, and the Senate.

After hearing the arguments of the parties, Wiseman ruled that a preliminary injunction to be issued shall follow the restraints by the TRO he previously issued.

Wiseman gave plaintiffs until today, Friday, at 2pm to file a motion for TRO only with respect to the items requested to be added for injunctive relief.

Wiseman set the preliminary hearing for Sept. 4, 2012 at 1:30pm.

If there is any objection to the preliminary injunction hearing, the judge said, the matter will be continued until Sept. 14, 2012 at 9:30am.

Wiseman said if defendants do object to the preliminary injunction with respect to additional items, then the subpoena presently returnable on Sept. 5, 2012 shall be modified to be due and deliverable to plaintiffs' attorney on or before Sept. 11, 2012.

"If there is no objection to the preliminary injunction scheduled for Sept. 4, 2012 then this matter will be taken off calendar and will proceed pursuant to the Civil Rules of Procedure for litigating a civil matter and the subpoena duces tecum (SDT) shall also be quashed," the judge said.

Quichocho disclosed to the court that they are going to file today, Friday, another motion for TRO to stop the implementation of related agreements surrounding the power purchase agreement.

Quichocho said with the defendants' non-opposition to the preliminary injunction, half of the case is now resolved.

Quichocho said the TRO that they will be filing covers the other half of the case.

The related agreements that Quichocho was referring to are the Pledge and Security Agreement; the Escrow, Pledge and Security Agreement; and the Guaranty, among others.

When the original complaint was filed, Quichocho and Maratita did not have copies of such related agreements.

Quichocho stated in the amended complaint that the agreements related to the power purchase agreement further guarantees a yet-to-be-determined thousands, if not millions, of dollars more in further direct and indirect costs that the people of the CNMI will be forced to pay.

Quichocho also disclosed in the amended complaint that it is now clear that Saipan Development LLC also signed the diesel power purchase agreement on Aug. 3, 2012.

The lawyer attached a copy of the power purchase agreement with the signature of Saipan Development LLC. A certain Fisher signed for Saipan Development LLC manager Donald R. Kurz. Fitial signed the agreement for CUC along with then AG Buckingham.

Quichocho said at the time of the lawsuit was filed, it was not apparent whether Saipan Development LLC has signed the diesel power purchase agreement.

In the causes of action, the plaintiffs added one claim—breach of trust against Fitial.

Quichocho said Fitial's actions have injured the plaintiffs and the good people of the CNMI.

Remained claims in the amended complaint are the taxpayer's right of action: Illegal expenditure of public funds; taxpayer's right of action: breach of fiduciary duty; declaratory relief; and injunction.

The amended complaint basically requested the same court order and relief that Maratita sought in the original complaint.

On Wednesday, Wiseman allowed acting governor Eloy S. Inos to have more time to respond to a subpoena filed by Maratita that ordered Inos to produce documents related to the power purchase agreement.

Wiseman modified the subpoena to extend the compliance date to Sept. 5, 2012 at 3pm.

The subpoena commands Inos to produce documents related to the alleged power purchase agreement between the CUC and Saipan Development LLC.

Last Aug. 21, Wiseman issued a TRO that prohibits Fitial, Buckingham, CUC, and Saipan Development LLC from pursuing the 25-year power purchase agreement.

The plaintiffs asked the court to declare that the power purchase agreement is "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore cancelled."

Per the power purchase agreement, on March 27, 2012, Saipan Development LLC, and the CNMI executed a power plant development and management agreement by which Saipan Development was granted the exclusive right to develop a diesel generated electric power plant on Saipan.

Quichocho described Saipan Development LLC as a "mysterious company" that is incorporated in the State of Delaware on March 22, 2012.

$190M

From Page 1

power plant development."

"If we are unable to proceed further, what Saipan Development Corp. loses is time, effort, and money. The citizens of Saipan lose the opportunity for a newer, cleaner, and more efficient power plant that could have contributed importantly to the infrastructure of the island and help Saipan grow. The citizens will also lose opportunities we hoped to develop through the development of the Lower Base into an industrial facility that could bring well-paying, skilled jobs and new investment beyond the hospitality industry," Mahmood said.

The secretive signing of the no-bid, 25-year PPA is one of the issues included in the House minority bloc's pre-filed resolution impeaching Fitial.

The resolution listed 16 articles of impeachment for felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said Fitial and Buckingham's signing a no-bid $190.8-million deal for a 25-year period "does not rise to the level of emergency."

Fitial placed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. under a state of emergency, placing it directly under his control.

Manglona said the CNMI government has not learned from past mistakes involving utility contracts, and the governor "seemed to disregard procurement laws and rules."

"I am confident that the lawsuit about the PPA will succeed so that this agreement would be permanently stopped from pursuing this or if there is a need for a new power plant to be built, it should involve the issuance of an RFP or invitation to bid," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* last night.

Manglona also said if Fitial and Buckingham believed the deal was so great, "then why did they keep it secret to a lot of people, including their lieutenant governor?"

"The governor cannot single-handedly commit the CNMI government into a contract like this. Public funds will be wasted because of lawsuit after lawsuit," the Senate president added.

Mahmood, founder of Allegiance Capital Corp., and Kurz, owner of Keystone Shipping, formed Saipan Development LLC "to operate as the overall developer of the (power) project."

Allegiance Capital Corp. is an investment bank specializing in financing and selling businesses in the lower middle market, based in Dallas, Texas. Keystone Shipping, meanwhile, is engaged in shipping, fuel transportation and fuel storage, and has worked on numerous projects with the military.

Mahmood said a new power plant would require at least $70 million to construct and with financing over 25 years could cost $190 million which he said is "admittedly a large sum."

"However, the continued operation of the existing dilapidated facility would cost the citizens and businesses on Saipan more than twice that amount over the same period of time, assuming the facility could in fact last that long. Moreover, the new plant would have a lifespan of at least 40 years, giving the residents of Saipan the confidence of a sustainable future electrical supply," Mahmood said.

He also said that the new power plant will provide the people "with a real reduction of kilowatt hours cost."

"While the numbers are significant, the government of Saipan has to put up no upfront money, will get a new modern power plant and its operating costs will be less than 50 percent of the existing facility. This does not take into account the deleterious effect that the operation of the existing plant has had on the environment, which will be significantly reduced when a newer cleaner operating facility replaces it," Mahmood said.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), a member of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, said yesterday that while there is no upfront cost to the CNMI, the fact remains that the $190-million cost to buy and build a new power plant "will be borne by CUC customers within the 25-year period to the tune of over $600,000 per month."

"On top of this, the subscribers of CUC will also be made to pay for the fuel to run this plant. Normally on a standard PPA, the company in this case Saipan Development LLC will construct, install, and commission the new plant without cost to, in this case, CUC. Once this is done, they will begin selling electricity to CUC who in turn sells it to customers. PPA is just that in that power produced is what we purchase and nothing more aside from the fuel supply if that is agreed upon," Dela Cruz said.

The lawmaker also said the CNMI should not be made to pay for the power plant itself.

"This is ridiculous and to think after the end of the 25th year, CUC or the CNMI government does not get to own the plant," Dela Cruz added.

INITIATIVES

From Page 1

start of the project.

"Mt. Tapochao is finally getting the attention it deserves as one of the most popular tourist spots on Saipan… We need more projects like this to stay competitive as a resort destination," Inos told his audience.

MVA, the agency tasked to promote the CNMI as a tourist destination, is taking the lead in the $48,000-project awarded to contractor CMI.

The project consists of four phases: Phase 1, which will take 45 days to complete, will focus on clearing out the monument and viewing deck area, instal-

See INITIATIVES on Next Page

LAW

From Page 1

enacted U.S. Public Law 86-778 which excluded, upon certification, the officers and employees of the government of Guam from participation in the insurance system commonly known as "Social Security." This exclusion was extended to the CNMI government. Employees in the private sector were not excluded.

In passing HB 17-315, the CNMI Legislature said it is now beneficial for residents that the CNMI government participates in the Social Security to reduce its operating expenses and help ensure a stable retirement for people.

Specifically, the bill amends Title 1 of the Commonwealth Code to include its statement of intent "to have the insurance system established by Title II of the Social Security Act extended to the elected officials and employees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its political subdivisions and instrumentalities as provided in 26 USC 3103 and 3111."

The amendment also talks about certification required.

The new public law says, "No later than 10 days after the effective date of this Act, the Governor shall certify to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America that this legislation has been adopted by the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

U.S. Social Security Administration regional commissioner Bill Zielinski confirmed that his agency is already working in partnership with the CNMI government to enroll its employees into the Social Security program.

Joseph M. Pangelinan, one of the leaders of active CNMI government employees, said based on what they hear and read, they are happy to know that the U.S. federal government is open and willing to work with the CNMI in accommodating its social security needs.

"If Oct. 1, 2012 is the earliest and the best date for us to transition into the U.S. Social Security system, then we do not miss that opportunity. Time is money and we cannot continue waiting and wasting time, especially when it has to do with our money," he told senators.

As for the pension reform and recovery measure of H.B. 17-315, Inos said the House will still have to deliberate on it after the Senate made some amendments to it on Wednesday night.

The bill gives active government employees options whether to refund their contributions from the NMI Retirement Fund without being penalized, continue working, and transition into the U.S. Social Security system, or remain with the Fund in hopes that the pension program improves as it receives additional funding from the central government.

These employees can also get back 25 percent of their contributions after deciding to withdraw within 30 days and the remaining 75 percent will be disbursed to them within 90 days thereafter.

HOSPITAL

From Page 2

He said if the proposed regulation will not change, this would also mean "re-evaluating" the policy they offer in the CNMI. NetCare has less than 1,000 members on island.

"The hospital expense is the major component of our cost locally. Obviously, in a situation like this, we need to make a business decision whether we will continue the business here or change policies we offer to shift that cost to the members. We will have to make some drastic decision," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

TakeCare's Ogata, for his part, believes that once "unaffordable" rates take into effect, people will find coverage somewhere else that would result to "loosing the cream of the good business" in the Commonwealth.

"We need the CHC to survive…but rate increase is not the only solution," said Ogata during the question-and-answer portion yesterday.

The Staywell Insurance, meantime, said it would find the best way to continue to provide quality coverage to its members, even it means bringing CNMI clients to Guam.

"What's happening at CHC really concerned us because the provider expense at the hospital is our largest expenses. So with the new rates, I think it's more cost effective to put you in a plane and come to Guam. [As much as possible] we don't want to do that but if the government is acting the way that's detrimental to our business, then we have to do that because it becomes more affordable for us," said Francis Santos.

He added that the people of the CNMI cannot deal with another drastic increase in their expenses considering they have ongoing challenges on utilities, retirement, and other issues.

Health insurance top officials said they are scheduled to meet yesterday with the corporation officials to air their concerns.

INITIATIVES

From Page 4

lation of galvanized railings and construction of latte stones, and enhancement of the monument.

Phase 2 is estimated to take three weeks and will concentrate on the memorabilia viewing deck and the continuation of galvanized railing installation and building of latte stones. Phase 3 will revolve around connecting the pathway railing to the interpretive signs and will be completed in two weeks.

The final phase, which will also take two weeks, will involve the main stairway and entry as well as leveling of the concrete work area.

Project manager Hector Sevilla of CMI said that the entire project will be concluded by some 15 workers before December or well within three months, and this estimate may or may not include external factors such as the weather.

"We incorporated in our design latte stones which will become columns because they are a symbol of the island culture," he added.

MVA allocated $25,000 for the much-anticipated project while the rest of the cost is funded by HANMI, TOC, and the Chamber—private sector partners which were acknowledged by Inos for their financial support in destination enhancement initiatives that support the tourism industry, which helps create jobs and generate revenues for government operations.

"May this groundbreaking be one of the many destination enhancement projects we'll have and I look forward to seeing a safer and more attractive Mt. Tapochao," added Inos.

Perry Tenorio, MVA managing director, said in an interview that the "worthwhile" project is a result of "a wonderful marriage" between the agency and its private partners, adding that MVA will continue to reach out to the business sector and look for ways to improve tourist facilities in the CNMI.

"We're hoping that our partners can step up because any investment in tourist sites is an investment in the travel industry," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Thursday's ceremony also witnessed the presentation of the pledged donations from the various project partners.

HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa handed a $20,000 check, which was raised through the hoteliers' group's golf tournament fundraiser. The general manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan noted that a public-private partnership is more than just the financial aspect.

"It's the cooperation, the willingness to work with one another to improve the island. That's also important," he said in an interview, adding that HANMI will continue to work with the government in future enhancement projects.

Chamber executive director Richard Pierce, meanwhile, presented a $6,000 check from the funds of the 170-member group of businesses that are eager to team up with government agencies such as MVA to enhance the islands' main industry.

"The Chamber of Commerce is all about the economy, the jobs, it's about destination enhancement and this project is another good reason for people to come to Saipan," he added.

Ben Babauta, TOC chair, also gave a check donation in the amount of $3,000 from the tournament's beautification fund, which they committed for the construction project.

"It's definitely a big plus for our tourism and for our local community. As you know, tourism is our only economic engine and we need to do every single thing possible to take care of our venue and keep them coming back every year," said Babauta, adding that TOC will also provide assistance on the project's landscaping feature.

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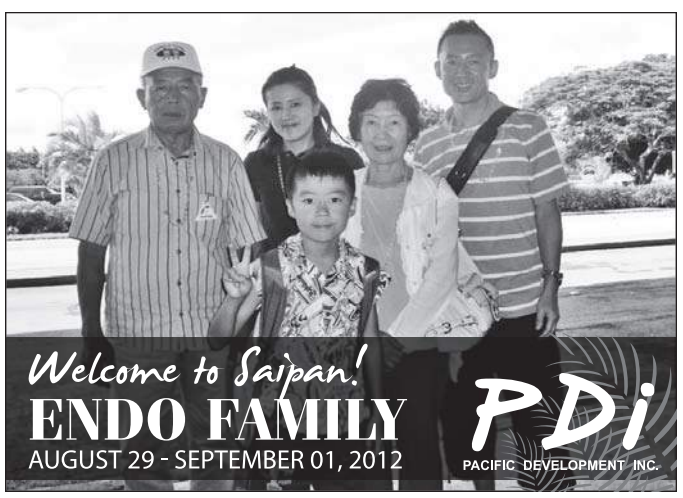


5 marine sports operators accuse Tasi Tours of litigating them to death

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The five marine sports operators yesterday stated that Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc.'s motion for reconsideration is part of its strategy to litigate them to death.

The operators, through counsel Mark A. Scoggins, said Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho should summarily deny Tasi Tours' motion not only because it is unnecessary for further argument on these topics, but also in order to protect them, and the court itself, "from more burdensome litigating in this matter."

Scoggins said the court, in its discretion, has found that justice required a change, and the change has been made after two rounds of briefing and two hearings.

"There is no need to revisit this issue again," the lawyer said in the operators' opposition to Tasi Tours' motion.

Camacho

As to Tasi Tours' motion to clarify the injunction order, Scoggins said there is no need to clarify this simple return to the status quo.

Tasi Tours asked the court to reconsider its ruling that allowed the five marine sports operators to post $60,172.95 in unsecured bond on top of the $1,861.05 cash that they had already posted as bond requirement in connection with their lawsuit against the Department of Public Lands over its rule on Managaha access.

Tasi Tours, through counsel Rexford C. Kosack, also requested clarification of Camacho's Aug. 22, 2012 order regarding bond for preliminary injunction.

Kosack said Camacho issued a preliminary injunction without giving the security for the payment of all the damages that might be suffered by Tasi Tours—contrary to Rule 65(c) of the Rules of Civil Procedure.

On the request for clarification, Kosack said what they understand with the injunction order is that it permits the five marine sports operators (and other duly permitted marine sports operators) to drop off and pick up "their customers" at Managaha Island.

"What is unclear, however, is whether they may pick up customers who were brought to Managaha by another tour company and then take them on Managaha to Managaha tours or Managaha to Saipan tours," he said.

Last Aug. 23, the five marine sports operators resumed their business operations after complying with Camacho's bond requirement order.

The operators—Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc., Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.—signed an acknowledgment of their responsibility for the unsecured amount.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

MHS Class of '93 reunion meeting today

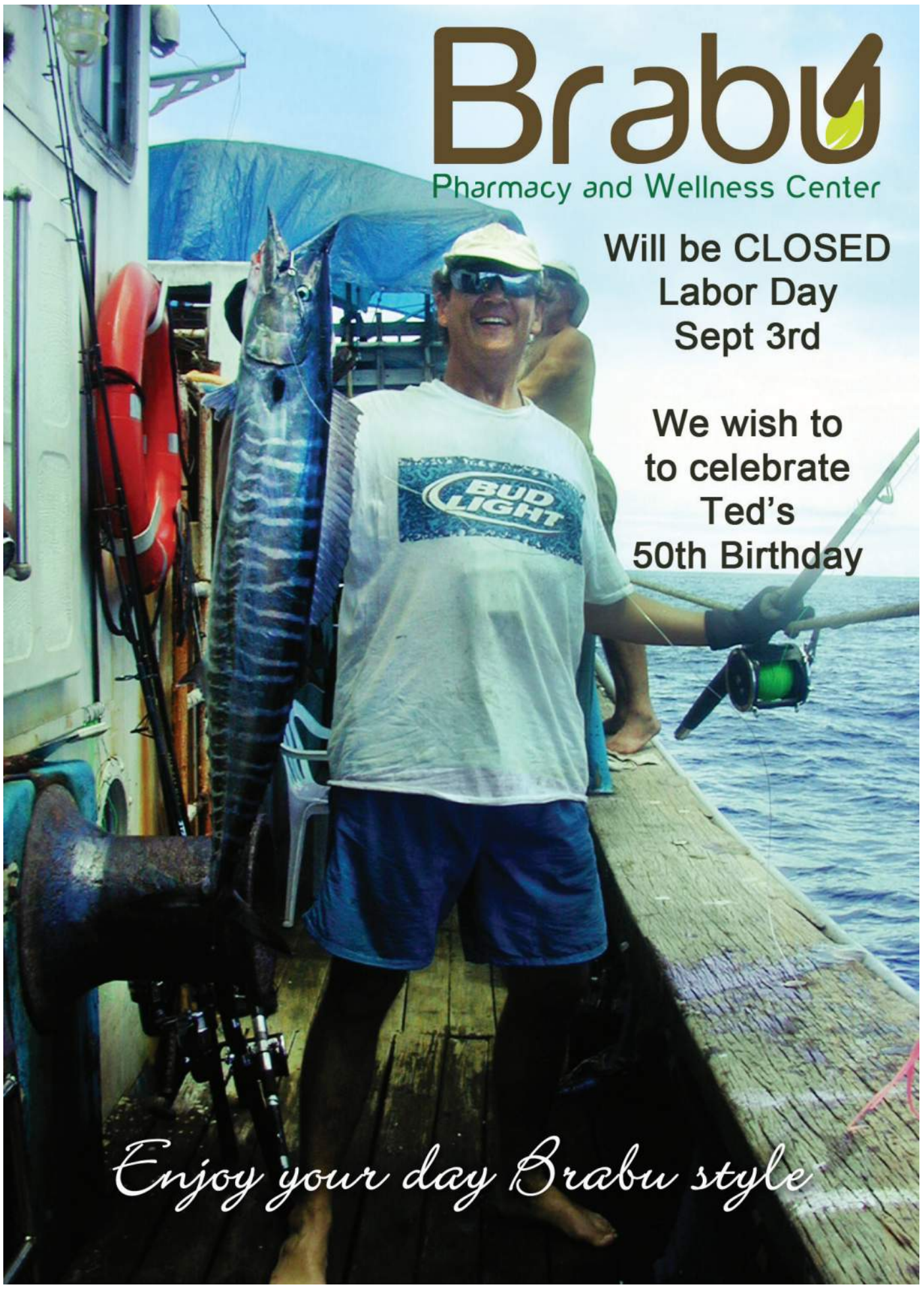
Marianas High School Class of 1993 will be having a class reunion meeting today, Aug. 31, starting at 6pm at the home of Clarence and Marie Tenorio in Fina Sisu, Joeten Subdivision, next to Northern Marianas College. For location and direction, contact Maryann Borja-Arriola at 483-2279 or Marie Castro Tenorio at 234-0406. ***(PR)***

SVES parents, guardians orientation today

San Vicente Elementary School will hold its parent and guardian orientation for school year 2012-2013 today, Aug. 31, from 5pm to 6pm at the their children's respective classrooms. ***(PR)***

San Antonio ES to start classes on Sept. 4

San Antonio Elementary School will begin classes on Sept. 4, 2012. The school gate will open at 7:15am. Parents and guardians will meet with their children's classroom teacher during the open house. Open house will be on Sept. 4, K-2nd grade, 5-6pm; Sept. 5, 3rd and 4th grade, 5-6pm; and Sept. 6, 5th and 6th grade, 5-6pm. ***(PR)***



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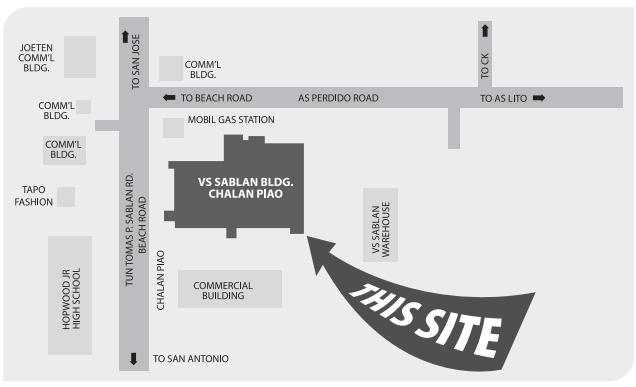

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Anti-bullying program introduced at Mt. Carmel

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mount Carmel School students were introduced to "Teen Truth Live," an innovative anti-bullying program whose films have reached over 3.5 million people and whose speaker has personally touched almost a million lives.

The presentation was facilitated by freshman class president and authorized "Teen Truth Live" presenter, Thomas Manglona II.

This week, high school students gathered in the school's main hallway at 7:35am as darkness set the stage for a gripping slide show about the effects of bullying, which has driven countless teens to commit suicide nationwide.

MCS students were then treated to a special video message from "Teen Truth Live" co-founder J.C. Pohl, who called on all the students to recognize that there are many things to live for and strive for.

After the video message, students then engaged in a moving activity in which everyone who had ever been bullied or teased was asked to stand. In the darkness, every single student stood up. That was followed by an invitation for anyone who had ever bullied or teased another person to sit down. Every student sat down.

The impetus for introducing "Teen Truth Live" came from Manglona, who had launched the program successfully at his former school.

"I wanted to get 'Teen Truth' off the ground on Saipan since I did it on Rota and it became really successful. As a result, teens [on Rota] are speaking their truth now and becoming leaders, not just at school as students but outside in the community as well," said Manglona in a statement yesterday.

According to the program's website, "Teen Truth Live" is North America's premier student assembly experience. Through a trademark combination of award-winning, student-shot films and professional motivational speakers, the program uncovers the real truth on issues such as bullying, school violence, drugs and alcohol, and body image and self-esteem. Each film and presentation is written and directed by Erahm Christopher and produced by J.C. Pohl.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

AUG. 31, 2003

Water contamination to persist
The water contamination problem of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will persist unless its slow sand filtration in As Lito is fixed. Local authorities have acknowledged that CUC's slow sand filtration located in the Airport area, which has not been working since early this year, is the main reason why CUC water continues to test positive for contaminants. This fact prompted both the CUC and the Division of Environmental Quality to recommend the filter refurbishment as the "top one" in their priority list for funding under a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

NMC gets no $10M proposers for Gateway
No financing firm responded to the $10 million loan solicitation of the Northern Marianas College for its Pacific Gateway project. Outgoing NMC Board chairman Vince Seman said Friday that the Request for Proposal for the loan had closed and that the college received no proposals from any financial group. "Nobody responded," he said, adding that the college was not actually looking for a loan but for financing such as a grant. The NMC published its RFP for the $10 million loan on July 11 without specifying the purpose for it. The public notice originally set an August 1 submission deadline, but this was extended for about two weeks.

AUG. 31, 2006

CDA bad debts reach $86.5M
The Commonwealth Development Authority is unlikely to ever collect loans and interests amounting to $86.5 million, according to an independent audit report. An audit conducted by Deloitte and Touche revealed that CDA had total loans and interests receivable of $118.1 million, as of Sept. 30, 2005. However, CDA management estimated that only $31.6 million of the total receivable may still be collected. The projection was based on analyses of loan portfolio quality, loan loss experience, and economic conditions that may affect the borrowers' ability to pay.

List of federally-paid govt workers sought
In a move to support its legal stand, the NMI Retirement Fund is asking the Department of Finance to release information relating to the salaries of federally funded government employees and their employer's contribution. In an Aug. 14, 2006 Open Government Request, the Fund listed 40 items to be provided by the department. It essentially asks the department to provide any and all documents with information pertaining to CNMI government agencies, instrumentalities, departments, and public corporations with employees whose salaries are paid by federal grant. The Fund also wants to get any and all documents pertaining to the number of these employees, the government's request for their payment, and the federal funds remitted to the CNMI government for the employees.

AUG. 31, 2009

'CEC's emergency regs unlawful'
Independent candidates Juan T. Guerrero and Joseph Camacho are taking issue with a recent decision by the Commonwealth Election Commission to, among other things, change the layout of the November ballots, saying this is both "unconstitutional and unlawful." In a meeting last Tuesday, the election board adopted emergency regulations amending its rules on the ballot's format and design, the 300-foot perimeter requirement, and the use of machines in the preliminary counting of ballots in each senatorial district. Guerrero and Camacho's campaign manager, Clyde Norita, said the emergency regulations were adopted despite the absence of any emergency.

3 GAO studies on CNMI economy, wage hike
The Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, is currently doing three reports on the CNMI focusing on the impacts of federal trade policies and the minimum wage increase, as well as the U.S. Department of the Interior's management of federal grants for insular areas. The first GAO report, which is now being finalized, looks at the impacts of U.S. trade laws, programs and agreements on the CNMI's key commodity exports. Richard Pierce, who is Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's former special assistant for trade relations and economic affairs and was appointed by the governor as the point of contact on GAO projects since 2007, said part of the report examines the impact of World Trade Organization changes on the CNMI economy.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Volume XXII, Issue No. 207

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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EDITORIAL

Time to give Russia permanent trade status

The entry of Russia into the World Trade Organization, which happened last week, means that Congress must now remove that country from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

That law, named after the late U.S. Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson, D-Wash., and Rep. Charles Vanik, D-Ohio, was passed in 1974 to prod the Soviet Union to allow Jews to emigrate. Under the law, the U.S. government can have normal trade relations with Russia only a year at a time, renewing if Russia allows emigration. Russia does, and its trade status has been extended every year since 1994.

By entering the WTO, Russia has agreed to several things of value to WTO members, including equal treatment of their goods and a cut in tariffs of an average of nearly 6 percentage points. But these benefits are guaranteed only to those WTO members with permanent normal trade relations with Russia. And America's relations are temporary.

This may not be a problem for Boeing, because Russia has been waiving its tariffs on aircraft. Other U.S. companies, such as producers of construction equipment, have less bargaining power.

Attorney William Robinson, who represents U.S. companies in Russian joint ventures, says, "A lot of companies are hunkering down" until they are sure how Russia's new rules will affect them. Under the WTO agreement, Russia isn't required to discriminate against U.S. products, but it could so long as it doesn't have permanent relations.

If Russia disfavors U.S. products, Robinson says, Northwest and other U.S. businesses "will be tremendously disadvantaged" compared with other WTO countries.

The Obama administration is urging Congress to roll back Jackson-Vanik, and Congress should do so.

Of the two principal bills, H.R. 6156, co-sponsored by Washington state's U.S. Reps. Dave Reichert and Jim McDermott, is the best option. It would simply remove Russia (and Moldova, a former Soviet republic) from the Jackson-Vanik list.

The rival bill, S. 3406, sponsored by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., would additionally allow the United States to seize assets of foreign officials deemed by the secretary of the treasury to have been involved in "gross violations" of human rights anywhere in the world. This is an overbroad grant of power that does not belong in a trade bill.

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A crabby commute

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.

Whenever fuel prices are high, like these days, it makes me think about car costs in general. Then I start thinking about how onerous the whole commuting thing is. Even when I'm not in a commuting job, the concept of driving back and forth to work, like a human yo-yo, seems archaic.

Newcomers to Saipan are often surprised that cars are as much a part of life on the island as they are in Los Angeles. On Saipan it's easy to spend 20 minutes, each way, getting to work and back. But count your blessings; I've been a lot of places in the states where people spend an hour each way.

I'm not suggesting that all jobs could be done from home, of course. Still, many jobs are largely clerical and administrative.

Some visionaries like to contemplate a de-centralized future, where communications technology and even micro-manufacturing technology will allow people to live and work in dispersed communities. This would save a lot of time, fuel, money, and pollution that's involved in commuting. I have no quarrel with the good intentions of such visions. Heck, I was telecommuting before some of its modern proponents were even born.

But no matter how much gas costs, and no matter how much technology can steer us around having to be physically present to work somewhere, I think that human nature simply compels people to huddle together. I'm not talking about Saipan in specific, I'm talking about the whole world in general.

Would you like a home-spun theory? Of course you would. So I'll dispense it from my beach chair as I wave my coconut-palm fronds around for emphasis. Says me: The modern office is our tribal campfire, with its chiefs, hierarchies, customs, costumes, routines, and behavioral mimicry. This is how people cement their concept of how they fit into the world. Without it many would feel adrift, or even afraid.

I worked for a mainland company that offered a work-at-home option to an entire department of clerks. The experiment was a disaster, but for a very weird reason. As you might expect, some of the people were more responsible than others in getting their work done under this situation. Hey, no surprise there. We in management anticipated that.

But we didn't anticipate this: The option of not coming to the office every day actually unhinged some workers. Apparently, some people aren't comfortable facing themselves all day long. The office might be their primary source of human attention. And now things got positively weird: The need-attention contingent harbored seething animosity toward the people who enjoyed being un-tethered from the office. Things got downright nasty. So we pulled the plug on the whole gig.

The event was much discussed in management. We concluded that while you can liberate people from the office, you can't always free them from themselves.

I didn't think about that again until I was working on Saipan. The crab pot meme was popular then, as it is now. You know the observation: If you have a bucket of live crabs, the ones that start crawling out of the bucket will be pulled back down into it by the other crabs. It's hardly friendly. But it's very much instinct.

Meanwhile, we'll note that gasoline for the daily commute isn't the only thing getting expensive. Those of you sending kids off-island to start college are probably crying over your checkbooks right now. So it won't surprise you that there's a lot of speculation about whether the Internet could supplant the classroom. After all, you don't have to be sitting in Boston to see a lecture in Boston. I'm aware of some developments in this, but we'll hit those another day. For now, suffice it to say that the technology is certainly in place, just as it is for eliminating many commutes, but, once again, human behavior is the real issue. Furthermore, education is a big-bucks industry, with a lot of entrenched interests, not all of which will welcome a change in the status quo.

So despite all the great advances in technology, are our routines any different than those of a generation ago? How about two generations ago? I don't perceive any big changes. Work is the same. College is the same. The basic structure has endured for a reason: It satisfies some basic elements of human nature.

Apparently, people need that primal campfire and all it represents. I'm not convinced you can pull them away from it. More to the point, they might not even let you walk away from it.

Come to think of it, the crabs have it better than we do: They don't have to buy gas.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

When our sails are torn!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

It's a hobby keeping certain global events on my radar screen meticulously treading events as they unfold. It includes various wars, i.e. the Middle East and looming Asian conflicts, and shifts among economies of scale reinventing approaches as the global economy decelerates dangerously to a halt.

Even at the national or global level, there's the usual delay in the timely resolution of issues as differences emerge between and among technocrats, professional politicians, policymakers, and private industries. But experts have followed the competing conflict in hopes of drawing some happy medium for everyone's benefit, a Leviathan task beyond my comprehension.

Leadership vacuum

Ours is much simpler: Leadership Vacuum!

I've trailed my time with this administration to understand what discouraged it from its fully capable leadership turned completely apathetic in recent years. Why did it trash "wealth and jobs creation?"

Was it the loss on immigration and minimum wage to the feds? Is it its inability to strike a synergistic and constructive working relationship with both the feds and local legislature? Were these discouraging issues sufficient to employ apathy when these isles are drowning in fiscal trauma the direct result being a listless economy?

How sad the apathy that has blurred a once clear prism of what needs to be done. It has a palpable understanding that something is very wrong. It equally knows that the challenge centers on the prognosis that significant change for the better would be slow or bleak as opportunities deteriorate. The apparent complete abandon violates traditional resiliency to stay the course of adversity come hell or high water. It took comfort in political pandering over leadership.

■■■

Ruffling feathers

Certainly, I can understand and appreciate the complexity of economic issues especially for a resource poor archipelago. But did leadership take proactive role in pushing bold and constructive policy measures with the legislature to ease the exodus of foreign capital? If so, what were those measures and did you push it with a sense of humility? Or did you encourage the guys and gals with feather ruffling arrogance to go "drink milk?"

Yes, it is an inherently difficult task navigating policy changes in a bleak economy while simultaneously trying to understand the nature of the beast that constantly shifts colors. Did you probe the depth of your perception and the urgency for bold policies on economic growth and stability with a sense of urgency? Have you any plans to reboot or revive a moribund economy?

Kernel of truth

But this difficulty is the very challenge of leadership. Leaving it to complete abandon turns into a crucial obstacle that feeds suspicion and distrust among governance. Didn't you see this as a consequence of dismissive arrogance?

"Claims that our leadership, institutions, analyses, or policy instruments are inadequate to the task at hand surely contain a kernel of truth," writes Michael Spence, a Nobel laureate in economics, professor of economics at New York University's Stern School of Business and senior fellow at the Hoover Institution.

"But the deeper problem is a breakdown in precisely such values and goals—that is, a weakening of social cohesion. Restoring it will require analysts, policymakers, business leaders, and civil-society groups to clarify causes, share blame for mistakes, pursue flexible solutions in which costs are shared equitably, and, most important, explain that hard problems cannot be solved overnight".

Abandonment triggers leadership vacuum that spreads into dystopia—meaning, where nothing works—to each his own as we collectively quiz our fate in the sea of despair. "How sad the wind, our sails are torn."

■■■

The trashing of trust

"Leaders don't fly with the flock; they fly alone." Indeed, we handed our future to incumbent leadership hoping that through their diligence and dedication we would see brighter days ahead.

It started out bullish and energetic determined to lead and make these isles an archipelago of pride and prosperity for our people. Somehow though it lost its magic and promise to what's right. Leadership has disintegrated into apathy and lack of Christian values leaving governance in complete abandon.

Today we no longer could look upstairs for leadership. The hill has morphed into a hub of "do-nothings" found in abundance, leadership so scarce. And so the simple folks quiz if this is the end of a very whimsical journey by this administration and is apathy its crowned achievement? How do we navigate the rough seas of fiscal calamity when the navigator is too busy partying and drinking wine when we're right smack in the seas of bankruptcy?

Intellectual dishonesty

Former legislator Kandidu Taman recently quipped over Isla' 63 (KUAM Radio) that the NMI is under, in his words, "supervised sovereignty." Really? Now let's dissect exactly what the newly coined beast is all about.

Obviously this view or personal coinage is completely off-mark. It opens the door for one to begin spouting off all the wrong information to undeserving innocent folks. In short, I think it's called intellectual dishonesty with a theme from a nursery song, *Three Blind Mice*.

In simple terms, you either have it (sovereignty) or you don't. There's no hybrid to the concept nor does it allow for room to compromise its political or legal definition. Again, either you are a sovereign country or you're not.

Furthermore, the NMI surrendered sovereignty under Section One of the Covenant Agreement. The agreement came into effect in July of 1975. As such, it's political subservience under the U.S. I think the confusion lies in mix up of sovereignty and local self-government. The two concepts are oceans apart.

The NMI is still far removed from attaining political maturity. We have yet to demonstrate that we can emplace measures designed to strengthen our democratic institutions. Be that as it may, the democratic process often entails a long and arduous journey.

Eventually, though our people would work up the resolve to meet their responsibilities as U.S. citizens and take the bull by the horn to reset the course of history.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rebutting Fitial, Demapan

From Wednesday's *Saipan Tribune*: "Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's administration said yesterday that the alleged offenses contained in a pre-filed resolution impeaching him 'do not rise to the levels of impeachment proceedings' but is only a 'smear' campaign against him. He also described its movers as 'disgruntled lawmaker using the issue for political gains in the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.'"

There are three bald-faced lies here, which the legislators and the public ought to consider. 1) The offenses certainly do "rise to the levels of impeachment proceedings." The midnight massage incident was eminently impeachable; the other offenses are grave. 2) It is not a smear campaign at all; it is holding the governor accountable and he doesn't much like it. 3) Of course the lawmakers are disgruntled, so are many of the citizenry. This comes from immense frustration that the governor has severely damaged the CNMI and its institutions.

"Governor Fitial knows that the proponents know this, but it appears they are pressing forward only because of imagined political advantage in an election year," (press secretary Angel) Demapan stated."

There is not a spec of evidence to support this. It is speculation without foundation.

"Demapan said, 'No one in Commonwealth history has been so thoroughly and unfairly scrutinized as Governor Fitial, yet they have to resort to a hastily crafted list of allegations that include incidents from two years ago that never saw any charges brought forth against him.'"

The scrutiny is certainly fair, as it is with any politician. As far as the incidents two years ago (the midnight massage) Demapan raised a good question. I also wondered why the feds didn't prosecute Fitial.

Here is why the impeachment proceedings are happening now. Eyebrows were certainly raised when a cordon of police officers accompanied Mr. Buckingham to the airport and assaulted Ms. Sablan. Although this is not impeachable on its face, it does suggest the flagrant misuse of public funds and personnel. Soon after, the scandal involving Saipan Development LLC, came to light. This was obviously done in secret and the lawmakers took umbrage. These two incidents touched the fuse of impeachment for many. It didn't take long for some of the house members to list other offenses, including the massage incident. The reasons were simple: Fitial has consistently abused his authority, has been in violation of the constitution, and needs—at long last—to be held accountable.

"The House minority leader said all these led the minority bloc to reach the decision to impeach Fitial." Yes, that's the point.

"'Fitial has continuously flaunted that he has authority to do whatever he wants. That pushed us to the edge and who knows—if we didn't do this, what else would he do? And we're not done yet with this,'" Deleon Guerrero stated.

Deleon Guerrero is wise—not because of past offenses committed by the governor, but to prevent any further abuse of power or misconduct.

Demapan: "[The legislators] are unfortunately allowing emotions to run over the strict guidelines of impeachment proceedings."

Emotions are a useful barometer of how the Legislature, and the community, feel as a whole. Many are angry, and justifiably so. But there is no evidence to suggest that emotions played a direct role in drafting the articles of impeachment. The "Seven" are cool-headed and articulate in their defense of the articles.

"The articles of impeachment contained in this second attempt are solely designed to smear Governor Fitial and are more so driven for personal gain in the upcoming midterm elections," Demapan said.

Again, there is no evidence to support this accusation. It is speculation with the intent to deflect the argument away from Fitial's misconduct by attacking the legislators' motives. And yet, the "Seven" have gained some new-found respect and stature among the "disgruntled" citizens. If they are re-elected, then more power to them.

"Demapan said the community still trembles at the edge of financial challenges, tourism arrivals still need to be increased, the new budget has yet to be passed, 'yet some lawmakers are only worrying about trying to successfully impeach a governor they failed to impeach in 2008.'"

If the CNMI is at the edge of financial "challenges" (a nice word for collapse) then the governor is, in large part, responsible. He did not bring forth the prosperity and "better times" he had promised. As well, the CNMI has deteriorated significantly under his watch, and now push has come to shove. If anyone is to blame for this mess, it's governor Fitial, who has consistently exercised poor judgment. Remember, this is the same man who wanted to sell one of the northern islands to the Chinese, and to allow the Japanese to dump waste on the pristine island of Pagan. These are certainly not impeachable offense, but it shows a reckless disregard for the people and property of the CNMI.

And, for the record, there was no attempt at impeachment in 2008, though it may have been privately discussed.

"Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), for his part, said lawmakers shouldn't be the judge, prosecutor, and juror at the same time."

There is no evidence that they have acted in these roles. What they did is to draw up a list of offenses. Did they judge? No, but they did use their powers of discernment to evaluate the governor's conduct. It is right and proper that they should do this.

Did they prosecute? Hardly. Are they jurors? Not in a court of law, they aren't. What they did was their jobs, under the guidelines of the constitution.

Mr. Fitial and Mr. Demapan remind me of the old wrestling shows on TV. When a guy got hit fairly, he would yelp to the referee, feign injury, and make a lot of noise. That is exactly what the administration is doing now.

Russ Mason
Oleai

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼79°	▲85 ° ▼80°	▲84° ▼79°	▲84° ▼79°	▲84° ▼80°

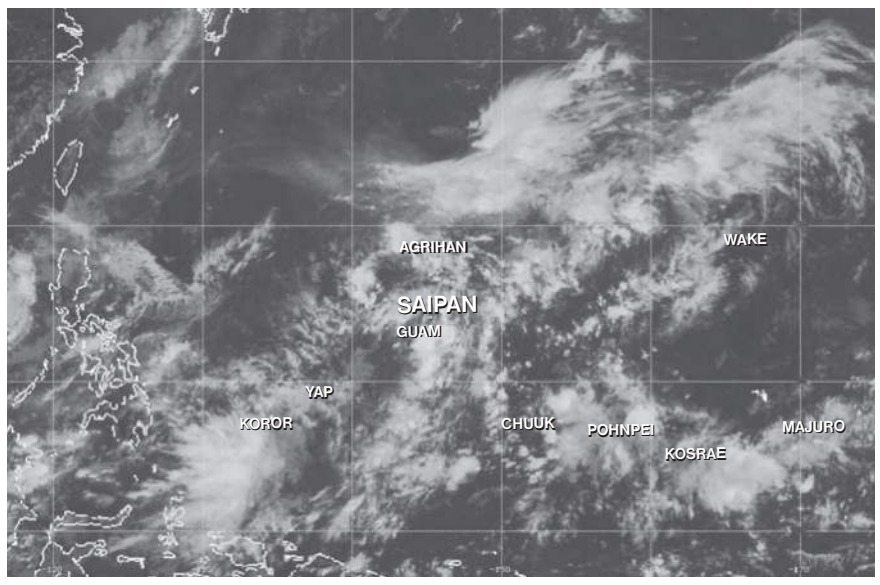
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼48
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼68
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼44
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼79
New York	Sunny	▲86	▼66
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼77
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼52
Pusan	Sunny	▲85	▼73
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼69
Salem	Sunny	▲79	▼49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼53
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲79	▼70
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲90	▼76
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲90	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough stretches northeastward from near Mindanao through 7N130E and weak circulations centered northwest of Koror at 9N132E and west of Saipan at 16N138E to end near IWO to island at 25N146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Yap and Koror within 200 miles of a line from EQ131E to 10N137E, south of Guam within 120 miles of a line from EQ141E to 13N147E, and across the northern CNMI within an area bounded by a line from 15N140E to 12N150E to 19N156E to 25N156E to 25N142E back to 15N140E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from 20N159E to beyond 25N at 164E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen northwest of Wake Island within 150 miles of the trough axis. Two trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 200 miles of a line from 9N155E to 4N165E to 9N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
7:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
8:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:04PM	5:26 AM
Saturday	6:45PM	6:18 AM
Sunday	7:25PM	7:10 AM
Monday	8:05PM	8:00 AM
Tuesday	8:45PM	8:50 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SUMMER PROMOTION FOR CNMI RESIDENTS

EXTENDED UP TO OCTOBER 31, 2012

For Details, Please call us at 236-8888 or Email us at rsrvn@laolaobay.com

ROOM PROMOTION (Extended)

Until October 31, 2012 (Except Sept. 27 - Oct. 3, 2012
$88 per Night for 2 persons (TAX Included)
Chamorro Breakfast & Pool Pass Included
Extra Bed : $33 per Night (TAX Included)
Extra breakfast : $10 per person ($5 for 11-year-old and below)
Check-in : 14:00 - Check-out : 12:00
Valid individual CNMI Resident ID Required upon Check-in
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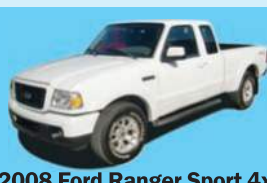
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This ad is paid for by the Covenant Party of the Northern Mariana Islands.

NMC posts 2nd highest enrollment since 2003

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College recorded its second highest enrollees in history with 1,274 full-time equivalent students for Fall 2012 semester.

This figure represents a significant increase from the records in Fall 2011 semester, which had 1,181 FTEs.

Saipan Tribune learned that this marked the institution's second highest enrollment recorded after the 2003 Fall semester with 1,354 full-time equivalent enrollment.

Full-time equivalency, or FTE, is calculated by taking the total number of credits that students have registered for and dividing that figure by 12, which is the minimum number needed to be a full-time student.

Of the nearly 1,300 students this semester, many are enrolled in the liberal arts programs which make up 25 percent of the entire enrollees. Coming in with the next highest enrollment is the bachelor degree in elementary education with 18 percent of the enrollment population this semester.

The college's nursing program came with the third biggest FTEs with 14 percent, while the associate degree in criminal justice received 8 percent of the enrollment population. Other programs have the following FTEs: AA business (6 percent); business administration with computer application emphasis (5 percent); B.S. education, rehabilitation and human services concentration (5 percent); business management (4 percent); business administration accounting emphasis (3 percent); hospitality management (3 percent); BS in education, special education concentration (2 percent); early childhood concentration (2 percent); and ELI program (1 percent).

According to dean of student services Leo Pangelinan, there are many factors that have encouraged many students at NMC such as the College Access Challenge Grant Program activities, including the Smart Start seminars held in three islands. NMC also successfully conducted the Cash for College seminar which was aimed at helping students find financial assistance to pay for their college expenses.

Pangelinan said another factor of the enrollment increase is the newly implemented regulations of the CNMI Scholarship Office requiring new scholarship applicants to attend NMC for their first two years of college in order to receive financial assistance. The college also now offers the TEACH Grant, which provides scholarship funds to students pursuing a teaching career.

NMC president Sharon Hart, meantime, assured students of the high quality of education they will receive.

"NMC delivers a high-quality education through academic and career-focused programs, preparing students to enter the workforce directly or continue with their studies at a four-year university. Also, while it is important that we look at the number of students served under our credit programs, it is equally important that we look at the numbers served in our non-credit programs like the Community Development Institute and the Adult Basic Education Program," said Hart, adding that in the last few years NMC served thousands of individuals in these non-credit programs.

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Volunteers begin Precinct 3 revitalization project

Volunteers comprised of island leaders, government employees, and other community members took some time last Saturday afternoon to kick off the second phase of the Precinct 3 Neighborhood Revitalization and Beautification Project.

Vice speaker and Precinct 3 Rep. Felicidad "Daling" T. Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon "RB" Camacho, Department of Correction inmates, Garapan Community Development Center or GCDC employees, staff of the Division of Environmental Quality, Zoning Office, and Department of Public Works, and other volunteers were equipped with bush cutters, rakes, and blowers as they cleaned the inner streets north of the Garapan Elementary School.

Saturday's event is the second phase of the Precinct 3 Neighborhood Revitalization and Beautification Project implemented by Ogumoro and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

The first phase involved the establishment of the GCDC which offers programs primarily for residents of Precinct 3, including the Northern Marianas College Adult Basic Education program that gives men and women the opportunity to attain their high school equivalent diploma and provides sports and recreation activities for children and adults.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers of the Precinct 3 Neighborhood Revitalization and Beautification Project pose for a group photo.

Villagomez said the creation of the GCDC allowed him and Ogumoro to expand services and make themselves accessible to the community. "The Precinct 3 Revitalization and Beautification Project is an extension of our efforts to serve our community and our visitors," he added.

With the GCDC up and running, Ogumoro said she will now have their community partners focus on the beautification project which she touted as "very important."

"For our sake as a community and for the sake of our tourism industry, we need to stop talking and start implementing positive and innovative programs," she said. "Village beautification and revitalization is one such program that is cost-efficient, community-oriented, and will yield positive results, health-wise, community-wise, and economy-wise."

Council chair Camacho, for his part, emphasized that the public are all "stakeholders" on this. "As stakeholders, we need to ensure that we take care of it and our islands. If we really want to restore our dying tourism industry and improve our economy, we need to start taking better care of our islands."

The three thanked all volunteers who came out to assist in the cleanup. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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Red Cross annouces Club 200 donors

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter would like to recognize Bridge Capital for their generous support of the Club 200 this year.

"Bridge Capital has been a great supporter of the Red Cross over the past several years" said John Hirsh, American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director.

"They feel strongly about supporting the arts as well as those who are in need" said Hirsh.

Bridge staff presented a check for $5,000 to help assist the Red Cross with their humanitarian work.

Present during the check turnover ceremony were Bridge Capital office manager Alan Perez, American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, and Club 200 committee members Bob Coldeen, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and Juan Diego Tenorio. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bridge Capital Office manager Alan Perez, American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, and Club 200 committee members Bob Coldeen, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and Juan Diego Tenorio pose for a photo during the recent check turnover ceremony.

Local chapter welcomes AFCEA International EVP

TAMUNING, Guam—A very special general membership luncheon meeting for the AFCEA Marianas Chapter takes place on Sept. 10 at The View in the Guam Marriott Resort and Spa in Tumon with networking at 11:30am and lunch service soon afterwards.

General John A. Dubia, executive vice president for AFCEA International, will be giving AFCEA updates relative to the international and specifically the Pacific regions; current and projected news on education, scholarships, and awards.

The luncheon is open to everyone, and a full buffet will be served: members, $21; non-members, $23.

More details on the AFCEA Marianas Chapter and luncheon registration can be found at http://www.afcea-marianas.org/ or contact information@afcea-marianas.org with any questions you may have.

The Marianas Chapter is just one of more than 120 AFCEA chapters around the world, re-established in 2007; the chapter hosts over 100 engineers, programmers, managers, industry leaders, government officials and military personnel as members. The chapter meets monthly to listen to experts in the field, engage in discussions and educational platforms, and idea-exchange. ***(PR)***

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BOG 2013 calendar photo contest deadline Oct. 5

» HS students throughout region eligible for cash prizes

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam announced that its 2013 Calendar Photography Contest is now underway.

Contest Guidelines are as follows:

Theme: "Hidden treasures: A journey through our islands' lesser-known havens of beauty."

Medium: Minimum 4X6 print in color or black and white. For digital photos, please copy to a CD and include a printed copy of the photo.

Eligibility: Open to all registered high school students through Guam, the CNMI, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Marshall Islands. Photo must be taken taken throughout Guam, the CNMI, Republic of Palau, the FSM, or the Republic of the Marshall Islands and certified by the student(s)

Deadline: Oct. 5, 2012

Cash prizes will be awarded to the cover photo ($250) and each month's photo ($150). Each student is limited to two photo entries each. Entry forms are available at all high schools, Bank of Guam branches and its website www.bankofguam.com. All entries are pre-screened by the bank's marketing department to ensure eligibility requirements are met. Final selections are presented anonymously and voted on by BOG senior management.

Winning entries will be featured in the 2013 Bank of Guam Calendar. Over 17,000 will be distributed throughout the branch network for customers at no charge. In addition, winning photos are featured on the Bank of Guam website, www.bankofguam.com.

For more information, contact Kebrina Duenas at (671) 472-5236, email at kebrina.duenas@bankofguam.com or fax at (671) 477-6796. ***(BOG)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy first birthday to our little star Andrei Derek B. Tenorio. We love you so much and many more birthdays to come. God bless you and enjoy your day. Love, Daddy Dexter, and Mommy Ariane.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy second birthday Jose Joel Palacios Agulto! It's been two years since you were first born and boy have you made so much memories that'll last forever! We love you chubbu guppy! Greetings from Mommy, Daddy, Aiyisha, and Jordan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Toviann Masiwemai who is turning 3 years old today. We love you and wish you a happy birthday! From your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Lani-Nicole Lizama Russell, who is celebrating her 18th year today. May you continue to be blessed with all the wonderful things in life. We love you very much. Love Mom, Dad, Amma, Ampa, your Makakilo, Novato, Columbus, and Bethesda family…and Booth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Leslie P. Sablan and many more blessed years to come. The most wonderful, beautiful, loving, and caring mommy/daughter/partner in the world…You are the best we love you! Enjoy your day. Greetings from A.J., R.J., Hon, and Magofna/Sablan/Pangelinan families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Sir Tony Pellegrino! Best wishes to the best boss ever! May you have many more wonderful birthdays to come. Greetings coming from SSV staff.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Acknowledgement

2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp

We want to thank and acknowledge all the people that donated and participated in the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp. We also want to thank and acknowledge our facilitators, volunteers, youths, artists, entertainers, and all other sponsors from various businesses, governmental and private agencies.

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Naedeen Macaranas
NMC-Area Health Education Center
NMC-Cooperative Research Extension Education Services
Non-Communicable Disease Bureau-DPH
Ofa Pua
Officer Jason Tarkong
Orrin O. Pharmin
Pam Carhill
Paolo Reyes
Parker Yobei
Parks And Recreation
Patricia Coleman
Patricia Marie Kaipat
Paula Dulei
Petrus Nicky
Phi Pharmacy
Pius Jr. Yaroitemal
Polla Dulei
Rafaela Baruela
Ramon Kaipat
Ray Kaipat
Rebecca Lisua
Rep. Janet Maratita
Rep. Joseph Palacios
Rep. Ramon S. Basa
Rep. Sylvestre Iguel
Rex Yabut
Rickress Kalen
Robert Somol
Rose Kaipat
Ruby Jean Belingon
Russel Rankin
Saipan Major League Association
Sarah Cabaluna
Sasamo
Seventh Day Adventist Clinic
Solidad Castro
Stacy Stroup
Tayna Camacho
Tony Benavente
Tony Rogolifoi
Trina Sablan
Trinalyn Santos
United Filipino Organization
Velma Rosario
Vince Dela Cruz
Vincent Cepeda
Vincent Sablan
Virgilio Abume
Wincel Mae Bubos

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

ARC urges everyone to plan for emergencies

September is National Preparedness Month and the American Red Cross, NMI Chapter is encouraging all households to create a family disaster plan to make sure they are ready for the next emergency or disaster.

Plans should include designating a meeting place right outside the home in case of a sudden emergency like a fire, an out-of-area emergency contact person, and a location where everyone should meet if they can't go home. All members of the household should work together on the emergency plan and each person should know how to reach other family members.

"Disasters can strike at any time and being prepared is a family's best defense," said J.D. Tenorio, emergency services director of the NMI Chapter. "Making a plan is an important step in making sure all household members know what to do in an emergency."

During the month of September, the local chapter will be coordinating disaster training classes as well as various outreach activities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The Red Cross together with various government agencies will also be conducting school presentations to teach students how to prepare for disasters.

"Everyone must be prepared to take care of themselves and their neighbors in an emergency," Tenorio said. "No one can predict where or when disasters will strike, but preparedness steps taken today can save lives tomorrow."

Other ways to get ready

The Red Cross has several programs to help people, businesses, schools, and communities be better prepared.

Be Red Cross Ready is an online tutorial that teaches people to be ready for emergencies.

Red Cross Ready Rating™ is a free, web-based membership program that measures how ready businesses, organizations, and schools are to deal with emergencies and helps them improve their readiness level.

The Ready When the Time Comes program trains employees from businesses so they can be used as a community based volunteer force when disaster strikes.

Red Cross First Aid and CPR/AED training courses provide participants with the knowledge and skills to respond to emergencies in case advanced medical help is delayed.

People can visit redcross.org for information on what to do before, during and after emergencies and disasters.

For more information on the American Red Cross or to become a volunteer, contact the local chapter at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

DEQ Sept. cleanup to coincide with Int'l Coast Cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality Cleanup Brigade is re-scheduled to coincide with the 2012 International Coastal Cleanup headed by Coastal Resources Managament scheduled for Sept. 14, 2012.

DEQ encourages volunteer groups or individuals to register for the event.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, contact Nicole Schafer at 664-8315 or email her nicschafer@bellsouth.net or call Joe Kaipat DEQ at 664-8509 email josekaipat@deq.gov.mp

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

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40 Years

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Dr. Steve and Carol Fisher

Open House at SDA Clinic
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday, September 7, 2012

Business

US economy grew at 1.7 percent rate in 2nd quarter

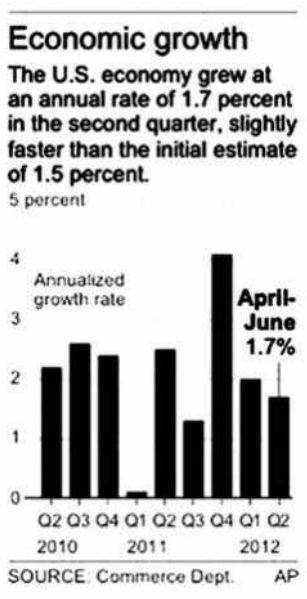
WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy grew at a tepid 1.7 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, suggesting growth will stay weak in the second half of the year.

Slightly stronger consumer spending and greater exports were the main reasons the Commerce Department reported Wednesday that growth was better than its initial estimate of 1.5 percent. Still, growth has slowed from the 2 percent annual rate in the January-March quarter and the 4.1 percent rate in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Economists expect only modest improvement in the second half of the year. Most believe the economy will keep growing, but at a subpar rate of around 2 percent.

"The economy was sluggish in the second quarter and the slight upward revision ... does nothing to change that picture," said John Ryding, an economist at RDQ Economics, in a note to clients.

The report was the government's second look at gross domestic product for the second quarter. GDP measures the country's total output of goods and services, from the purchase of restaurant meals to construction of highways and bridges. A third and final estimate of second-quarter growth will be released next month.


Economic growth
The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 1.7 percent in the second quarter, slightly faster than the initial estimate of 1.5 percent.
5 percent
Annualized growth rate
April-June 1.7%
4
3
2
1
0
Q2 Q3 Q4 Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q1 Q2
2010 2011 2012
SOURCE: Commerce Dept. AP

Growth at or below 2 percent is not enough to lower the unemployment rate, which was 8.3 percent in July. Most expect the unemployment rate to stay above 8 percent for the rest of this year.

A weak economy and high unemployment could hurt President Barack Obama re-election chances and bolster Mitt Romney's campaign. Republicans are in Tampa, Fla. this week to formally nominate Romney and have pointed to the dismal growth in making the case to elect their candidate.

Economist Robert Brusca said the various changes in the second estimate should be positive for growth going forward. He noted more consumer demand in the spring than previously thought, which drives 70 percent of economic growth. And he pointed to less restocking of shelves, which suggests businesses could replenish their stockpiles in the current quarter. Faster inventory growth increases factory production, which boosts growth.

But Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said the small revision to second-quarter growth "offers little comfort."

Isaac brings higher gas prices, south and north

NEW YORK (AP)—Drivers are being hit with the biggest one-day jump in gasoline prices in 18 months just as the last heavy driving weekend of the summer approaches.

As Hurricane Isaac swamps the nation's oil and gas hub along the Gulf Coast, it's delivering sharply higher pump prices to storm-battered residents of Louisiana and Mississippi—and also to unsuspecting drivers up north in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

The national average price of a gallon of gas jumped almost five cents Wednesday to $3.80, the highest ever for this date. Prices are expected to continue to climb through Labor Day weekend, the end of the summer driving season.

"The national average will keep ticking higher, and it's going to be noticeable," says Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst at Gasbuddy.com

The wide storm shut down several refineries along the Gulf Coast and others are operating at reduced rates. In all, about 1.3 million barrels per day of refining capacity is affected. So, it's no surprise that drivers in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida saw gas prices rise by a dime or more in the past week.

But some states in the Midwest are suffering even more dramatic spikes. Ohio prices jumped 14 cents, Indiana prices soared 13 cents and Illinois prices jumped 10 cents on Wednesday alone according to the Oil Price Information Service. Days before Isaac is expected to douse those states with rain, the storm forced the shutdown of a pipeline that serves a number of Midwest refineries.

Drivers in the region were angry and confused. ""I saw gas in my neighborhood for $3.56 a gallon just Tuesday morning, and now I'm paying $3.95. It's terrible," said Mary Allen of Cincinnati as she paid $20 for just over five gallons of gas. She wondered how Isaac could drive up gas prices in Ohio—and then resigned herself to a holiday weekend without travel.

The price surge is happening at the wrong time and the wrong place for Dickson Stewart, a 56-year-old electronics consultant, who is driving from Minneapolis to Savannah, Ga. this week. He stopped at a BP station in downtown Chicago Tuesday—home to some of the highest retail prices in the country—and paid $4.49 a gallon to fill up his Jeep Wrangler.

Stewart expects gas prices to fall after Labor Day. Analysts say he's probably right.

As Isaac fades away, the summer driving season ends, and refiners switch to cheaper winter blends of gasoline, stations owners should start dropping prices. "There is some very good relief in sight," DeHaan says.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Unemployment rose in half of US cities in July

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unemployment rates rose in a majority of major U.S. cities in July from June, more evidence that the job market remains weak. The Labor Department says unemployment rates rose in 193 large metro areas. They fell in 114 and were unchanged in 66. In June, rates rose in 332 cities, fell in only 29 and were unchanged in 11. The national unemployment rate increased in July to 8.3 percent from 8.2 percent in June. But the job market improved, as employers added 163,000 jobs, the most since February.

Ford breaks ground on new plant in eastern China

HANGZHOU, China (AP)—Ford Motor Co. is developing a lower-priced small car for the Chinese market but has no plans to start a separate, cheaper brand in China as rivals General Motors and Volkswagen have. Ford executives discussed their plans during a three-day tour that ended Wednesday at the groundbreaking of a new assembly plant in the eastern city of Hangzhou. The $760 million plant, which is Ford's first plant on the populous east coast of China, is expected to open in 2015. "Hangzhou is really critical because of the market it serves, and it diversifies our operations," CEO Alan Mulally said after shoveling some dirt in a ceremony with local officials. He said the city has good infrastructure and a trained workforce that will help Ford expand.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

Request for Proposal
RFP12-GOV-108

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE TINIAN HEALTH CENTER, SAN JOSE, TINIAN MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, is soliciting sealed proposals for the Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the BUILDING ASSESSMENT of the Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian MP, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the Department of Interior. The Local Business Preference as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local proposers because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funds for this project.

This project is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing.

The Scope of Work (SOW) will be available on Wednesday, August 29, 2012 at the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor. No fee is required in obtaining this proposal package. A Pre-Proposal Meeting is scheduled on 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan on Wednesday, September 12, 2012. The project completion time for this project is 45 calendar days. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., CIP Project Manager at fax no. 670-664-2408 or via email at balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com no later than Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 4:30 p.m., local time.

Proposals shall not exceed twenty five (25) pages. Note that a firm or company that submits as a prime consultant cannot submit as a sub-consultant on another proposal. However, sub-consultants maybe included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification and Experience on similar projects – (25%)
2. Project Approach – (25%)
3. Work load and resources to accomplish the work in the required time frame – 25%)
4. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects – (25%)

Proposals must be sealed and marked by September 26, 2012. For proposals within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than September 26, 2012. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitted an Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 4:30p.m. on September 26, 2012 local time, and maybe submitted via facsimile to (670)664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of the foreign country no later than September 26, 2012 AND must be received no later than October 2, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms maybe selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful proposer(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations Section 3-301.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-025

CONSTRUCTION OF MAINTENANCE & REPAIR SHOP BUILDINGS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of new concrete block maintenance and repair shop buildings at the CUC Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Facility on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The project consists in general of the construction of concrete block maintenance and repair shop buildings and the expansion of existing buildings located on Saipan at Sadog Tasi. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the wastewater treatment plant or the operations at the water and wastewater operations offices. The work includes construction of water maintenance shop, parking sheds, wastewater equipment storage, pump shop extension, guard house and asphalt paving improvements. The Project is to be completed in 240 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 11, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-12-025, Construction of Maintenance & Repair Shop Buildings"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 2, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **September 14, 2012** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Commander, Kenneth Esplin, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email kenneth.esplin@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

Puerto Rico Dump Closure – Phase I, Consensus Building;

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through the Capitol Improvement Project Office (CIP) is currently considering several ideas and design concepts for the closure of the Puerto Rico Dump (PRD), the subsequent use and development of the site an adjacent area in accordance with regulatory requirements.

A preliminary report evaluating these concepts has been prepared. The report and plans were developed in close coordination with interested stakeholders, and local and federal regulatory agencies. The PRD closure concepts range in scope, public benefit, aesthetic value, and cost. The concepts are briefly described as follows:

1. Minor modifications to the existing site to minimize closure costs, and environmental impacts.
2. Incinerating waste on-site.
3. Removal of the waste (Clean closing) to the Marpi Depression solid Waste Facility.
4. Reducing the height of the dump site by moving a portion of the waste to Marpi, capping and closing the dump site, and enhancing the property to serve as a park area that would provide pedestrian walkways, and recreation areas.
5. Further enhancing the site by providing waterfront / marine facilities.

The CIP Office would like to provide the interested public an opportunity to review the preliminary report and proposed closure plans in detail, and to provide their written comments to the CIP Office Administrator, Ms. Vickie Villagomez. The report and concept plans are available for review at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill during normal working hours beginning on August 27th and will remain available for comment through September 14th, 2012. After September 14, written comments received will be taken into consideration in selecting the final closure program.

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Email info@dqsaipan.com

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE:	August 27, 2012	POSITION:	Guest Relations Officer
CLOSE DATE:	September 6, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Proficiency in Japanese Language highly preferred. Minimum two (2) years in hotel front desk or concierge services strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.

OPEN DATE:	August 27, 2012	POSITION:	Front Desk Clerk
CLOSE DATE:	September 6, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in hotel front desk and / or concierge position strongly preferred. Applicants must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready to smile.

OPEN DATE:	August 27, 2012	POSITION:	Server
CLOSE DATE:	September 6, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, and friendly attitude. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.

OPEN DATE:	August 27, 2012	POSITION:	Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE:	September 6, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE:	August 27, 2012	POSITION:	Housekeeping Attendant
CLOSE DATE:	September 6, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE:	August 27, 2012	POSITION:	Laundry Attendant
CLOSE DATE:	September 6, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in housekeeping or laundry services preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE:	August 27, 2012	POSITION:	Cook (Chinese/Western/Korean)
CLOSE DATE:	September 6, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience in culinary experience. Applicants with formal training / education in culinary arts strongly preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.

OPEN DATE:	August 27, 2012	POSITION:	Maintenance Repairer/Electrician
CLOSE DATE:	September 6, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Formal electrical education or training highly preferred. Must have friendly and outgoing personality.

For more information, please contact Human Resources Office at (670) 234-5900 ext. 576/266.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be received by the Security Office.

Nation

Police: 100-year-old driver hits 11 near LA school

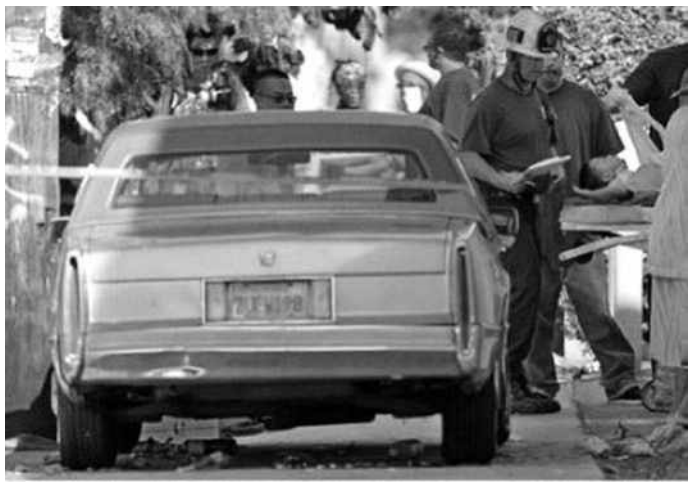
LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 100-year-old man backed his car on to a sidewalk and hit 11 people, including nine children, across from an elementary school in South Los Angeles just after classes had ended Wednesday, authorities said.

Four of the children were in critical condition when firefighters arrived but they were stabilized and were in serious condition at a hospital, city fire Capt. Jaime Moore said. Everyone was expected to survive, he said.

The powder blue Cadillac backed slowly into the group of parents and children buying snacks from a sidewalk vendor, and the crowd banged on his windows and screamed for him to stop, but not before some of the children were trapped under the car, witnesses said.

LA County-USC hospital spokeswoman Rose Saca said one child remained in critical but stable condition, another would remain for observation overnight and another would likely go home later in the day. Others were treated and released.

Children's backpacks, shoes, candy and loose change were strewn about the scene behind a discount grocery store across from Main Street Elementary.



AP

A young victim is treated by Los Angeles city firefighters after a car driven by a 100-year-old went onto a sidewalk and plowed into a group of parents and children outside a South Los Angeles elementary school, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012, in Los Angeles.

Police identified the driver as Preston Carter and said he was being very cooperative.

Carter talked to television reporters after the crash some five miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles. He said he has a driver's license and will be 101 years old Sept. 5.

"My brakes failed. It was out of control," Carter told KCAL-TV.

Asked about hitting the children, Carter said: "You know I'm sorry about that. I wouldn't do that for nothing on earth. My sympathies for them."

Carter was pulling out of the grocery store parking lot, but instead of backing into the street, he backed onto the sidewalk, police Capt. George Rodriguez said.

"I think it was a miscalculation on his part. The gentleman is elderly," Rodriguez said. "Obviously he is going to have some impairment on his decision making."

Older drivers have been involved in other tragedies. In 2003, an 86-year-old man mistakenly stepped on the gas pedal of his car instead of the brake and then panicked, plowing into an open-air market in Santa Monica. Ten people were killed and 63 injured.

Isaac steers clear of direct blow on New Orleans

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP)—Hurricane Isaac sidestepped New Orleans on Wednesday, sending the worst of its howling wind and heavy rain into a cluster of rural fishing villages that had few defenses against the slow-moving storm that could bring days of unending rain.

Isaac arrived exactly seven years after Hurricane Katrina and passed slightly to the west of New Orleans, where the city's fortified levee system easily handled the assault.

The city's biggest problems seemed to be downed power lines, scattered tree limbs and minor flooding. Just one person was reported killed, compared with 1,800 deaths from Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi. And police reported few problems with looting. Mayor Mitch Landrieu ordered a dusk-to-dawn curfew just to be sure.

But in Plaquemines Parish, a sparsely populated area south of the city that is outside the federal levee system, dozens of people were stranded in flooded coastal areas and had to be rescued. The storm pushed water over an 18-mile levee and put so much pressure on it that authorities planned to intentionally puncture the floodwall to relieve the strain.

"I'm getting text messages from all over asking for help," said Joshua Brockhaus, an electrician who was rescuing neighbors in his boat. "I'm dropping my dogs off, and I'm going back out there."

President Barack Obama declared federal emergencies in Louisiana and Mississippi late Wednesday, according to a statement from the White House. The disaster declarations free up federal aid for affected areas.

By midafternoon Wednesday, Isaac had been downgraded to a tropical storm. The Louisiana National Guard wrapped up rescue operations in Plaquemines Parish, saying they felt confident they had gotten everyone out and there were no serious injuries but would stay in the area over the coming days to help, National Guard spokesman Capt. Lance Cagnolatti said.

CDC: West Nile cases rise 40 percent in 1 week

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

West Nile virus cases are up 40 percent since last week and may rival the record years of 2002 and 2003, federal health officials said Wednesday.

So far this year, 1,590 cases of the mosquito-borne disease have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and 66 deaths.

About half of the cases are serious illnesses, and the CDC considers those the best indicator of West Nile activity because many mild cases do not get reported and their symptoms may not even be recognized.

Typical symptoms are fever, headache and body aches, and most people get better on their own in a few days. Less than 1 percent develops neurological symptoms such as stiff necks and even coma and paralysis.

Based on reports of West Nile so far this year, "we think the numbers may come close" to those of 2002 and 2003, when nearly 3,000 severe illnesses and more than 260 deaths occurred each year, said the CDC's top expert on the disease, Dr. Lyle Petersen.

Health officials think that West Nile activity will peak in mid-to-late August, but likely will continue through October. Because symptoms can take two weeks to appear, reporting cases lags behind when people became infected.

The disease first appeared in the United States in 1999. Officials say this year's early spring and hot summer may have contributed to the current boom in cases. Mosquitoes get the virus from feeding on infected birds and then spread the virus to people they bite.

World

Syria's Assad acknowledges struggles in civil war

BEIRUT (AP)—In a striking admission, President Bashar Assad said in an interview broadcast Wednesday that his armed forces will need time to defeat the rebels and addressed the string of defections from his authoritarian regime.

The comments amounted to an acknowledgment that even though the opposition lacks the government's tanks and airplanes, their tenacity and tactical creativity—combined with the military's struggle to fight on multiple fronts—have yielded a stalemate that could prolong the civil war with many more dead.

Over the past few months, Syria's military has increasingly been stretched thin fighting on multiple fronts against rebels seeking to oust Assad. His forces have been unable to quell the rebellion as it spread to the capital, Damascus, with significant clashes that began in July and to Syria's largest city, Aleppo, a few weeks later. At the same time, the military is fighting smaller scale battles in a string of other cities and towns around the country.

With neither side making significant advances, the conflict is looking more like a war of attrition that could be very drawn out.

"We are fighting a regional and global war, so time is needed to win it," Assad said in an interview with the pro-regime private TV station Dunya. "We are moving forward. The situation is practically better but it has not been decided yet. That takes time," he told the station, which is majority owned by Rami Makhlouf, a cousin of Assad and one of Syria's wealthiest men.

"If the armed forces wanted to use the entire range of its firepower, it can wipe out many areas. But this will be unacceptable," said Assad.

Assad also appeared to make light of the significant number of defections, some of them senior military and political officials, including the prime minister.

"Defections are a positive process. Generally, it is self-cleansing of the state and the nation," said Assad. "If there is a Syrian citizen who knows of someone who wishes to flee but is hesitant to do so he should encourage him," he said with a smile. "Whoever flees is either weak or bad. A patriotic or a good person does not flee."

Assad claimed there were cases when authorities knew in advance of officials who wanted to flee and allowed them to do so unhindered. But he did not provide any specifics to back up the claim.

Taken together with his comments to a visiting Iranian official over the weekend, Assad shows willingness for an even more prolonged conflict, even with more than 20,000 estimated dead in more than 17 months of fighting.

His regime, he told the senior Iranian official, would continue the fight against the rebels "whatever the price."

French probe deepens confusion over Arafat death

JERUSALEM (AP)—A French murder probe into the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat prompted an Israeli denial of responsibility on Wednesday and renewed doubts that Palestinians would stick to a halfhearted pledge to exhume Arafat's body.

Arafat's death eight years ago in a French hospital has remained a long-running mystery for many, driven by murky but persistent conspiracy theories that he had cancer, AIDS or was poisoned.

His successor, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, reluctantly agreed to exhume the former leader's remains for an autopsy this summer after new evidence prompted Arafat's widow to seek a criminal investigation. Any finding of wrongdoing would be an embarrassment to Palestinians, who were most in contact with Arafat before he fell ill.

Officials say Abbas went forward under public pressure, despite hesitation about the public spectacle of digging up the body from the massive mausoleum outside Palestinian headquarters in the West Bank. But the autopsy has been on hold while authorities seek Suha Arafat's approval.

Arafat, who was 75, died at a French military hospital in November 2004, two weeks after he was rushed there from his West Bank headquarters with a mysterious illness. He died of a stroke, but the underlying reasons for his condition have been constantly debated.

The theory that he was poisoned by Israelis -a charge the Israelis vociferously deny—has been popular in the Arab world. The idea gained steam in July after a Swiss lab found traces of Polonium-210, a rare and lethal radioactive isotope, on Arafat's clothing.

"Israel did not have any hand in this," Dov Weisglass, a senior Israeli official at the time of Arafat's death, said in a radio interview Wednesday, even while calling Arafat "one of Israel's worst enemies."

WORLD BRIEFS

PH economy expands 5.9 percent

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine economy has expanded 5.9 percent in the second quarter, as the government increased public spending and inflation remained low. GDP growth was slightly lower than the adjusted 6.1 percent in the first quarter, but Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said Thursday the figures are above market expectations and average regional growth. He said risks include a weak global economic recovery, a slowdown in China and the El Nino dry spell that is expected to impact agriculture. The biggest contributor came from the services sector. Steady inflows of remittances from Filipinos overseas propped up domestic spending while tourist arrivals grew 11.7 percent from a year ago to reach 2.1 million.

Merkel in control despite allies' Greek cacophony

BERLIN (AP)—Chancellor Angela Merkel wants the Greeks to keep the euro. Her vice chancellor says it wouldn't be so bad if they abandoned the common currency. Another ally says Greece should leave the euro club within months. Merkel's image abroad may be that of Europe's determined taskmaster, but at home the picture has long been less clear: Her coalition government has become notorious for infighting over a range of issues. At first glance, the cacophony over Greece fits that picture—but it shouldn't be mistaken for policy drift. The chancellor still appears in control of the delicate balancing act she has performed for two years: to help struggling countries that accept tough budget cuts and reforms while convincing Germans she is defending their interests—and wallets.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2012-CDA-09-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Monday, September 24, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 1st Floor Wakin's Bldg. in Gualo Rai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per PL15-95 and as further amended by PL15-118 and the application must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2012-CDA-08-ITB

CLOSING DATE: Monday, September 24, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"JANITORIAL & MAINTENANCE FOR CDA BUILDING IN SAN JOSE"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 1st Floor Wakin's Bldg. in Gualo Rai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per PL15-95 and as further amended by PL15-118 and the application must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

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Attorney for Ramon Tudela Matsunaga

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH BLANCO MATSUNAGA, Deceased. — **CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0116**

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR and NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 19, 2012, Ramon Tudela Matsunaga has been appointed and qualified by the Commonwealth Superior Court as Executor of the Estate of Elizabeth Blanco Matsunaga, deceased. ALL CREDITORS and persons having claims against the Estate or against the deceased are required to file the same, with proper vouchers attached, with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this notice, or be forever barred.

DATED this 28th day of August, 2012.

LAW OFFICE OF WILLIAM M. FIZGERALD

/s/ William M. Fitzgerald (F0110)
Attorney for Executor

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CORAZON P. YUSON-JAMERO Petitioner, **versus** **TEODORO B. JAMERO,** Respondent. — **FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0384** — **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 15th day of August, 2012.

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Accounting Manager

Graduate of 4-year degree course in accounting with at least 5 years experience in financial management: directing the preparation of financial reports; implementing cash management; and directing investment activities for a logistics supply chain business operations. Must have excellent written communication and analysis skills for financial data reporting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics software are a must. Expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point is required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years experience in financial management for a logistics/supply chain business or agency operations. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics systems. Must have expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume to CTSI Logistics, lower base not later than September 08, 2012, Saturday.

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LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P. O. Box 504340
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070
e-mail "joshuaberger711@hotmail.com"

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

CIVIL CASE NO. 12-0186

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER, Plaintiff,

vs.

RICKY P. CUSTODIO, Defendant.

SUMMONS
(For THEFT)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint in this matter, a copy of which may be obtained at the law office below or the Superior Court, within **twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication** of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger whose address is Second Floor, D' Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Sususpe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED August 23, 2012

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

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The Possession

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:50
Saturday and Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Monday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Tuesday thru Tuesday		4:25	7:25	

Cast: Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Kyra Sedgwick
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG13

Synopsis

Inspired by Los Angeles Times writer Leslie Gornstein's article "A Jinx in a Box," this horror film from Ghost House Pictures and director Ole Bornedal (Nightwatch) tells the tale of a broken family that comes under attack from a malevolent supernatural entity of Jewish folklore. Shortly after her parents (Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Kyra Sedgwick) divorce, a young girl purchases an ornate antique box at a yard sale. In the weeks that follow, the young girl forms an intense fixation on the box, her behavior growing increasingly bizarre as she falls into the grip of a diabolical apparition. When the girl's father discovers that the relic is in fact a holding cell for the disconnected soul of a deceased person who has been denied entry into the afterlife and needs a human host to inhabit, he fights to rid her of the evil that threatens to consume her body and soul.

The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday and Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:10	9:35
Monday	1:20	4:05	7:10	
Tuesday thru Tuesday		4:05	7:10	

Cast: Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton
Comedy, Drama, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

A happy husband and wife receive a most unexpected gift in this enchanting fantasy drama from Academy Award-nominated writer/director Peter Hedges (What's Eating Gilbert Grape?, Dan in Real Life)).Jim (Joel Edgerton) and Cindy Green (Jennifer Garner) are deeply in love and planning to start a family in Stanleyville when one night, during a thunderous storm, a young boy named Timothy (CJ Adams) comes knocking at their door. In time, the prospective new parents and their curious neighbors discover that the most amazing things can happen just when you least expect it.

★ ★ ★

Step Up: Revolution

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday and Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Tuesday thru Tuesday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Ryan Guzman, Kathryn McCormick
Drama • Rated PG13

Hit and Run

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:20	7:20	9:40
Monday	1:00	4:20	7:20	
Sunday thru Tuesday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Dax Shepard, Bradley Cooper
Action • Rated R

The Expendables 2

Friday		4:10	7:05	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:05	9:55
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:05	
Sunday thru Tuesday		4:10	7:05	

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li
Action • Rated R

Paranorman

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Sunday thru Tuesday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Susan Dudeck, Donna Lynn Leavy
Children's/family • Rated PG

Bourne Legacy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:00	7:00	9:45
Monday	1:05	4:00	7:00	
Tuesday thru Tuesday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

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Life & Style

Lennon killer wants to live with minister if freed

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The man who killed ex-Beatle John Lennon said in his most recent parole bid that he hoped to live and work with an upstate New York minister if released, according to a hearing transcript released Wednesday.

Mark David Chapman, 57, was denied parole last week for the seventh time. He can try again in two years.

Chapman shot Lennon in December 1980 outside the Manhattan apartment building where the former Beatle lived. He was sentenced in 1981 to 20 years to life in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree murder.

Chapman, who said his motivation for killing Lennon was instant notoriety, also told the parole board he was surprised more celebrities haven't been the targets of violence and said he has thought about someone trying to kill him as a way to gain fame as the person who avenged Lennon.

"To do something like that against another person, it's something that would keep me alive and boost me," he said. "That's ludicrous and I'm actually glad that that's not done more. I thought maybe more people would do that and I'm glad that they have not. I'm surprised that they have not because this society is just geared toward celebrity like crazy."

Chapman, who has said he considered killing several other celebrities, told the parole board he wanted Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, to know that he felt no anger toward Lennon.

"It wasn't anything against her husband as a person, only as a famous person," he said. "If he was less famous than three or four other people on the list, he would not have been shot. And that's the truth."

During an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press, Ono and the couple's son were reluctant to talk about Chapman or his latest parole denial.

"It's not the kind of thing you can really answer simply. I mean, it's complicated," Sean Lennon said. "But let's just say that our lives were changed forever by that, so it's a sensitive sort of thing."

AP

This May 15, 2012 photo provided by the New York State Department of Corrections shows Mark David Chapman at the Wende Correctional Facility in Alden, N.Y.

"Especially for Sean," Ono added. "Because Sean was so close to John and suddenly John was gone."

Chapman, a former security guard from Hawaii, said during an Aug. 22 parole hearing that he's been offered lodging and a farm job by Stanley Thurber in Medina, a village between Rochester and Buffalo.

"He's a minister and he's an older fellow and he has a lot of contacts in the area and he has agreed to refurbish his upstairs apartment for me and offered me two jobs," Chapman told the parole board.

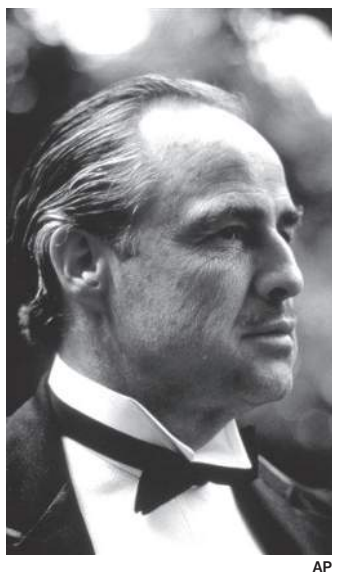
He said his wife, Gloria Hiroko Chapman, met Thurber at a church function and was "impressed by his deep commitment to Christ." After corresponding with Thurber, Chapman said, they met for the first time on Aug. 20.

A message left Wednesday at a phone number listed for Thurber was not immediately returned.

During the hearing, Chapman again expressed remorse for the killing, spoke of his Christian faith and talked about his routine at the Wende Correctional Facility near Buffalo, where he was moved in May and placed in "involuntary protective custody."

"I've been in my cell, basically, writing letters, reading, thinking," Chapman said. He was locked up previously at Attica, where he worked in the prison law library. He said he didn't know why he'd been moved.

Paramount and 'Godfather' author heirs clash in NY



AP

In this file photo provided by Paramount Pictures, Marlon Brando is shown in a scene from Paramount Pictures' "The Godfather."

NEW YORK (AP)—The dispute over the future of "The Godfather" franchise is moving to federal court in Manhattan as Paramount Pictures and heirs of the story's author face off at a hearing Thursday.

The son of "The Godfather" creator Mario Puzo wants a judge to end Paramount's rights to make future "Godfather" films.

Lawyers for Anthony Puzo said in court papers that the company breached its contract when it tried in December to stop publication of "The Family Corleone," a "Godfather" sequel that was published in May.

Paramount, which is owned by Viacom Inc., sued the late author's estate in March, seeking a declaration that it automatically owned book publishing rights in any book that was a sequel to "The Godfather." Paramount said in court papers that in 1969, it purchased from Puzo all rights and copyright interests in "The Godfather," including all "literary" rights and rights to use any characters created for the story in "other works." Mario Puzo died in 1999.

Paramount said the only right left to the Puzo estate was the right to publish the original novel "The Godfather" and to publish versions and adaptations.

But the estate's lawyers disagree. They said the agreement excluded book publication rights from the rights that Paramount could acquire.

They said Paramount also got nasty in trying to prevent publication of the new sequel by contacting the publishers of the book and insisting that neither the publishers nor the estate had any right to publish it.

The estate asked the court to declare that the estate owns the book publishing rights to any sequel, that Paramount cannot prevent the estate from publishing the book and that Paramount does not automatically have film rights to new books.

"The rights repudiated and violated by Paramount were of fundamental and critical importance to Puzo and were of the essence of the 1969 agreement," the lawyers wrote. "More than once, Puzo said, `Books are my world,'" explaining why Paramount didn't get book rights and wouldn't get them."

Seth MacFarlane to be season's 1st 'SNL' host

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC says the big guy behind the cartoon comedy "Family Guy" will guest host the season's first "Saturday Night Live."

The network announced Wednesday that Seth MacFarlane will be presiding when "SNL" begins its 38th season Sept. 15. Musical guest will be Frank Ocean.

The multitalented MacFarlane created the Fox series "Family Guy" and serves as writer, producer and voice artist on the show. He recently directed his first feature film, "Ted," and furnished the voice for its teddy-bear title character.

Future guest hosts on "SNL" this fall include actors Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Daniel Craig.

AP

This Oct. 1, 2011 file photo shows Seth MacFarlane in Los Angeles. NBC announced Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012, that Seth MacFarlane will host"Saturday Night Live" for its 38th season premiere on Sept. 15.

FX orders 90 more episodes of 'Anger Management'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—FX is ordering 90 more episodes of "Anger Management," Charlie Sheen's TV comeback vehicle after being fired from "Two and a Half Men."

The unusually large order reflects the original agreement that FX made for the sitcom that stars Sheen as a therapist.

As part of the deal, FX set a ratings target for eight of the first 10 episodes of "Anger Management." The show reached the threshold, earning an automatic 90-episode order, the channel said.

The round figure of 100 episodes is the benchmark for series syndication, and that's the future for episodes that have shown first on FX, said producer Debmar-Mercury, a Lionsgate subsidiary.

"Anger Management" will go into syndication in September 2014, the company said Wednesday. It's a model that Debmar-Mercury used with the Ice Cube sitcom "Are We There Yet?" and on "Tyler Perry's House of Payne" and "Meet the Browns."

FX Networks executive vice president Chuck Saftler said he's confident the producers and cast will be able to produce the full order during the next two years after quickly turning out the first 10.

In July, Sheen said the prospect of continuing is as "exciting as hell," and added, "I don't think 90's gonna be enough."

FX called "Anger Management" cable's highest-rated new comedy series this year, averaging 4.5 million total viewers.

Sheen

The number reflects the show's initial strong showing after its June debut, when it attracted more than 5.5 million viewers.

The show's viewership dropped to below 3 million for some later episodes and was hard-hit by the Olympics in August, averaging just under 2 million, according to Nielsen Co.

But "Anger Management" remained a healthy performer among advertiser-coveted young adult viewers, which was key to FX's decision to place the big-ticket order.

Sheen, who was replaced by Ashton Kutcher on CBS' top-rated comedy, was fired in 2011 by studio Warner Bros. Television because of his erratic personal life and public ridicule of the show's producer.

With "Anger Management," Sheen answers in part to himself with what FX has called a "significant ownership stake" in the show. Bruce Helford is the executive producer.

Jackson family in Gary to mark pop star's birthday

GARY, Ind. (AP)—The scene outside the childhood home of Michael Jackson resembled a party as fans joined members of the pop star's family for a vigil Wednesday, which would have been his 54th birthday.

Fans danced to Jackson's music prior to the arrival of his children and mother at the house at 2300 Jackson St., where the King of Pop, his siblings and their parents lived until 1969. In the days after Jackson's death in 2009, the singer's admirers piled stuffed animals, flowers and photos outside the tiny home in Gary.

Among those at the Wednesday night vigil was Andrei Tejada, 32, a Chicago veterinary technician student who said she was pleased that Jackson's relatives were attending the event.

"They still remember where they started, and it shows they appreciate where they started. It's a humbling experience to know they are here," said Tejada, who said she visits the Jackson childhood home once a month.

Other events planned by the family in Gary include a dinner Friday and a concert Saturday.

Before the vigil, Jackson's children, 14-year-old Paris and 15-year-old Prince Michael, were given blue "Team Gary" T-shirts by Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson as they posed for pictures at a casino overlooking Lake Michigan.

"We just want you to know how much he meant to us and the city of Gary," the mayor said.

Paris and Prince Michael didn't speak during the brief presentation. Later, in the moments before the vigil was to start, the two, joined by Jackson's other child, Prince Michael II, signed autographs outside the Jackson home. A large crowd formed around them, with fans shoving books and posters in the teens' faces.

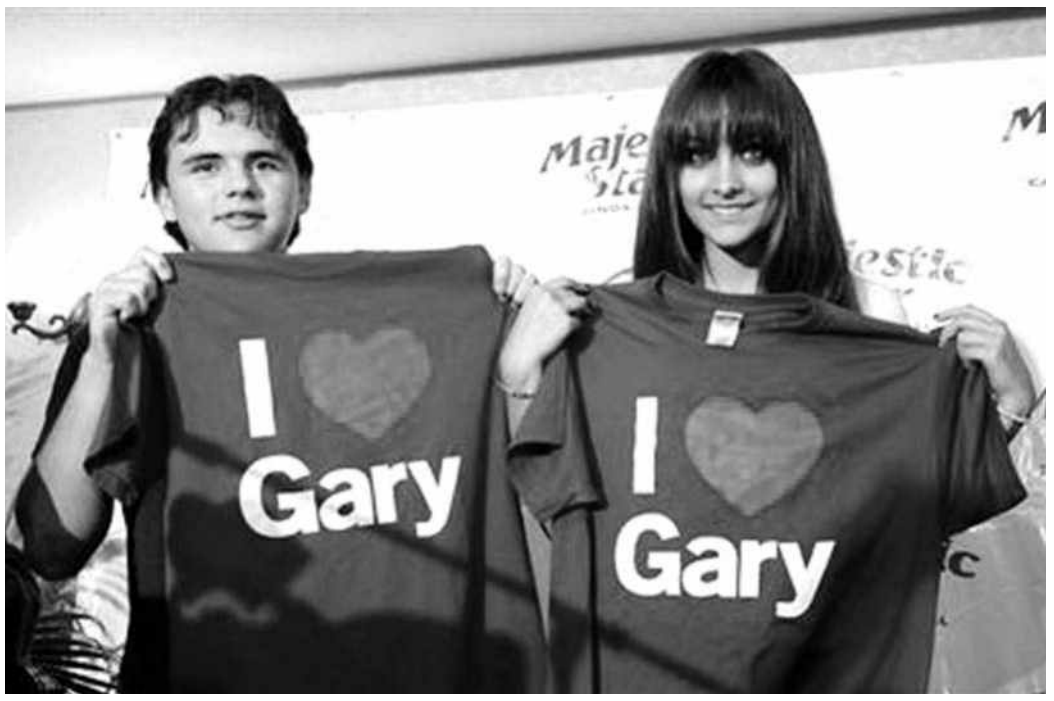
Jackson's sister LaToya told the crowd the family's musical fame started in the city, east of Chicago, and in "this little house." After saying, "We all love you, Michael," LaToya folded her hands and looked to the sky.

Rainbow/PUSH Coalition leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson showed up at the tribute, stopping in the crowd before the vigil to pose for a photo with a Michael Jackson impersonator.

Jackson later said he thanked God for Michael Jackson and led the crowd in chanting, "Long live Michael!"

Michael Jackson spent the first 11 years of his life in Gary. The family moved out of the city known for its steel mills after the Jackson 5 struck it big in 1969 with the release of their first album.

Aside from two concerts the Jackson 5 played at West Side High School in 1971, the only time the singer returned to his hometown was in 2003, when plans for a Michael Jackson Performing Arts Center in the city's downtown were announced. It was never built.



AP

Prince, left, and Paris Jackson, son and daughter to the late pop icon Michael Jackson, display T-shirts given to them by Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012, in Gary, Ind.

Las Vegas burlesque star Holly Madison pregnant

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Holly Madison, the blonde burlesque performer who worked at Playboy and on reality TV before starring in a Las Vegas Strip show, says she'll be adding a new title to the resume—mom.

The 33-year-old star of "Peepshow" told Us Weekly she's 12 weeks into her pregnancy. Her boyfriend of nine months, Pasquale Rotella, issued an enthusiastic statement Wednesday.

"Holly and I are so excited to announce that we are going to be parents," said Rotella, who is CEO of Insomniac Events, organizers of the Electric Daisy Carnival rave. "We're in love and counting down the days until we meet our beautiful baby. I can hardly believe how lucky I am."

AP

In this Oct. 12, 2008 file photo, model Holly Madison poses on the press line at the Hollywood Life 5th Annual Hollywood Style Awards in Los Angeles.

In May, Madison announced she would finish her run with "Peepshow" at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino on Dec. 30.

Show officials say tickets are still available through the end of the year, but they're working with Madison to determine how much of that time she'll be performing in the lead "Bo Peep" role.

"The producers of `Peepshow' couldn't be happier for Holly as we know she has had a long desire to become a mother," show officials said in a statement, adding that they'll be making a casting announcement soon.

"Peepshow" debuted in March 2009, with Madison taking the lead in June of that year.

Madison previously worked at Playboy and dated the magazine's creator, Hugh Hefner. She's also known for her role in the reality show "The Girls Next Door."

When to bury dad's ashes causes family flare-up

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My father died eight years ago. Mother couldn't afford to bury him at the time, so he was cremated. Mom asked me to keep his ashes until her time was up so they could be buried together.

I have had them ever since. It makes me feel like he is still with me, that I have not totally lost him. However, over the last year, my brothers and sisters have led my mother to believe that I won't respect her wishes to have them buried together when the time comes. She is pressuring me to bury him NOW. It hurts me that my family could even think I would take that away from my mother.

To this day, my siblings say mean things about Dad, claiming he was a "terrible" father and husband. I'm a lot younger than the rest of them, so it's possible I never saw the bad side of him. The father I knew was a caring, loving man, and it drives me crazy to hear my siblings speak ill of him. They don't remember his birthday, the date of his death or even how long ago it was.

Abby, I don't know what to do. If I go ahead and bury my dad's ashes now, I feel I will be losing him completely. Please help me. I feel so lost.

SAD AND MISUNDERSTOOD DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: Perhaps there is a way to satisfy everybody. Before returning your father's ashes to your mother and siblings for burial, take a small portion to keep for yourself. Your feelings are not all that unusual -- and contrary to popular belief, not all ashes are scattered or buried. Sometimes they are retained for decades by family members who are not yet ready to part with them.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: About a year ago, I began a part-time job for extra cash. My manager and I developed an attraction for each other that soon led to a sexual relationship. The problem is that he's married with two children, and he is significantly older than me.

I know now that this has to end. I have no emotional ties to him, but I think he is starting to care for me. I can't quit the job because a family member got it for me, and it would seem suspicious if I quit.

Please respond soon because I am trying desperately to avoid being alone with him, and it's becoming more and more difficult. How do I end the affair and remain on decent terms with this man?

NEEDS A QUICK OUT

DEAR NEEDS: It's difficult to remain on decent terms after there has been indecent exposure, but tell your manager your conscience demands that the hanky-panky stop. Then, if he tries to get you alone, tell him, "Nothing doing—I've turned over a new leaf."

I'm sure he'll find a way to handle the rejection. If it breaks his heart, he can seek comfort from his wife, from whom he shouldn't have strayed in the first place.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm going into junior high. I'm a straight-A student and get my homework and projects done. But I'm not that organized. I always put my assignments away, but when I need them, they're never there!

My mom complains to me about it and calls me a troll. My room isn't so hot, either. What can I do?

THE TROLL IN ST. PETE

DEAR TROLL: The time to get organized is now. Begin by cleaning your room and making sure you have a study area that is not messy. After that, you should always put your projects and completed assignments in ONE SPOT, and they won't be lost. You'll be able to find them easily once you have only one place to look.

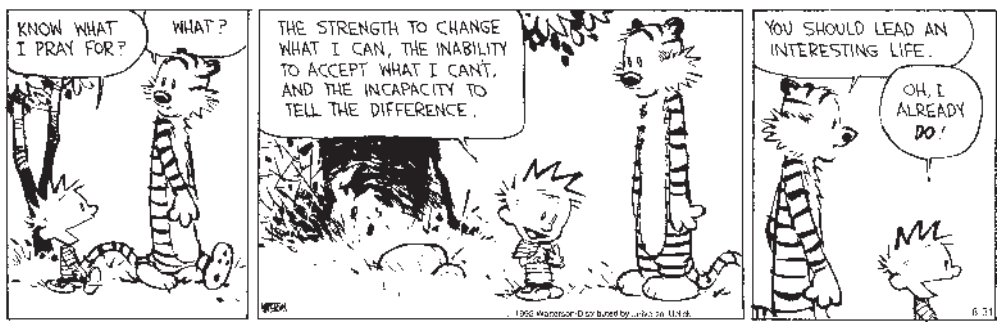
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

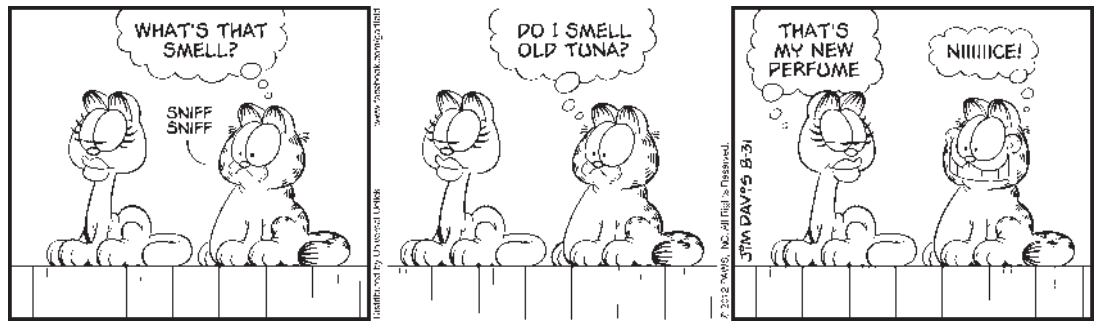
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


KNOW WHAT I PRAY FOR?
WHAT?
THE STRENGTH TO CHANGE WHAT I CAN, THE INABILITY TO ACCEPT WHAT I CAN'T, AND THE INCAPACITY TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
YOU SHOULD LEAD AN INTERESTING LIFE.
OH, I ALREADY DO!

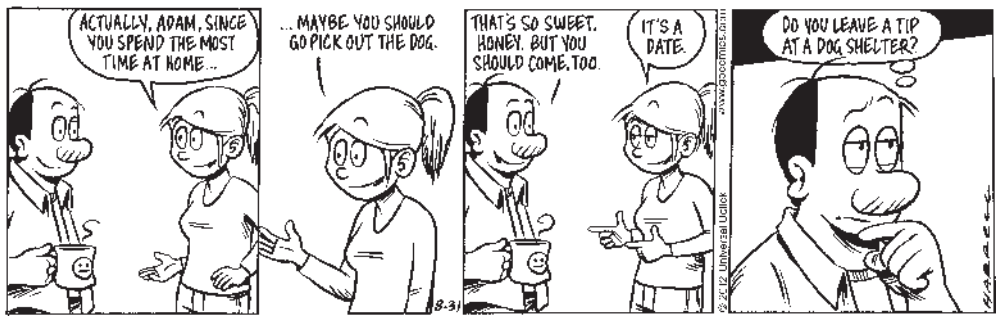
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



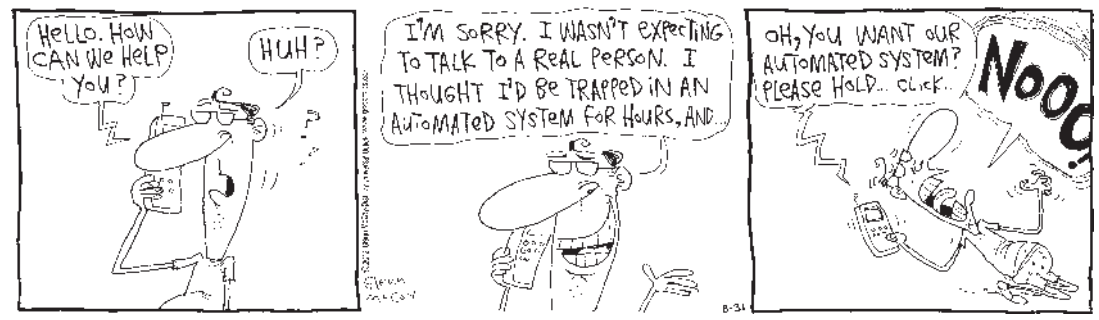
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ACTUALLY, ADAM, SINCE YOU SPEND THE MOST TIME AT HOME...
...MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO PICK OUT THE DOG.
THAT'S SO SWEET, HONEY. BUT YOU SHOULD COME, TOO.
IT'S A DATE.
DO YOU LEAVE A TIP AT A DOG SHELTER?
8-31

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HELLO. HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?
HUH?
I'M SORRY. I WASN'T EXPECTING TO TALK TO A REAL PERSON. I THOUGHT I'D BE TRAPPED IN AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR HOURS, AND...
OH, YOU WANT OUR AUTOMATED SYSTEM? PLEASE HOLD... click.
NOOO!
8-31

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

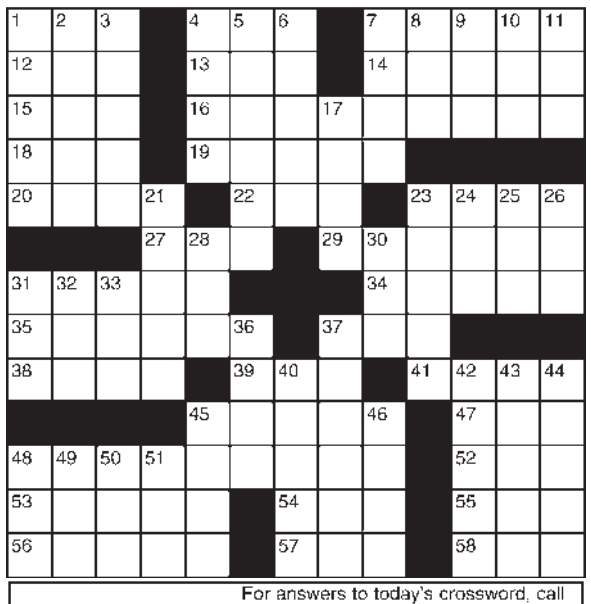
ACROSS
1 That guy
4 Autumnal abbr.
7 Colorful parrot
12 Big bother
13 Winter ailment
14 Foolish
15 Cross-word-page abbr.
16 What a trigger triggers
18 Discover-er's cry
19 "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" writer Betty
20 Inmates
22 Mandela's old org.
23 Pop
27 Illumina-tion unit
29 Quaint fashion accessory
31 Urge
34 Put back to 0
35 Kegler's target
37 Meadow
38 Hint
39 — glance
41 Handle
45 Duck
47 Mimic
48 Certain fastener
52 Opposite of "trans-"
53 Pelvis-related
54 Tokyo's old name
55 Trench
56 Choppers
57 "— Kapital"
58 Type squares

DOWN
1 Destruc-tion
2 Baking potato
3 Nitwit
4 Kills, gangster-style
5 Culmina-tion
6 Shroud city
7 Ho Chi —
8 Director Lee
9 Upper limit
10 Blackbird
11 Cyst
17 Pruritus
21 Ski run
23 Porter-house, e.g.
24 Chances, for short
25 Conk out
26 Pismire
28 Half of bi-
30 Exist
31 "Yada yada yada"
32 Solidify
33 Wilde-beest
36 Almost black
37 Preten-tious
40 Recorded
42 Mother-of-pearl
43 Poppy product
44 Defeats
45 Leave a good impres-sion
46 Grandson of Eve
48 Perch
49 Draft pick?
50 "A pox upon thee!"
51 Nosh

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	E	P	■	P	A	S	S	■	P	L	A	N
I	R	A	■	I	D	L	E	■	A	O	V	E
P	A	R	A	N	O	I	D	■	R	O	T	S
■	■	■	A	R	K	■	P	A	R	A	P	E	T
S	I	M	M	I	R	■	N	U	S	■	■	■
A	G	O	■	D	O	S	■	M	O	P	E	D
S	O	U	P	■	B	E	A	■	L	A	V	A
S	T	R	A	W	■	A	S	H	■	R	E	L
■	■	■	R	I	D	■	S	A	F	A	R	I
P	A	R	A	G	O	N	■	R	A	G	■	■
E	K	E	D	■	P	A	R	A	Q	U	A	T
S	I	L	O	■	E	M	U	S	■	A	W	N
O	N	Y	X	■	Y	E	N	S	■	Y	E	T

Yesterday's answer 8-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Ramirez, 37; Zack Ward, 42; Jonathan LaPaglia, 43; Richard Gere, 63.

Happy Birthday: You can make things happen by taking the initiative. Don't sit back, or someone will swoop in and take over. Stick to your budget and plans, and refuse to let anyone cost you emotionally or financially. Make choices that suit your needs, and you will come out on top with no regrets. Your numbers are 8, 14, 25, 32, 39, 42, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Use experience to get things done quickly now. Don't allow personal problems to interfere with a job you must complete. Your responsible attitude will attract interest from someone impressed by your efficiency. Keep emotions in check. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put time and effort into partnerships and helping others. Your gestures will not go unnoticed and will help position you for return favors and offers that can boost your earning power. Make home improvements and nurture personal relationships. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put honesty first. You'll be caught in an emotional situation if you don't keep your story straight. Put more emphasis on work and doing the best job possible and less on rumors or information that could come back and damage your reputation. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Interact with people from different backgrounds, or learn whatever you can that will help you expand your awareness or make personal improvements. Love is on the rise, and engaging in a little romantic fun will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Focus on saving, not spending. You'll have plenty to offer others without offering cash. Suggestions you make or hands-on help will be appreciated. An unusual investment may tempt you, but you are best to invest in your own skills and services. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take time to appreciate those who support you mentally, emotionally and financially. Acknowledging others is all that's required and will leave a better impression than spending money you don't have. Offer time, suggestions and services. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Short trips will lead to new adventures. Embrace learning something new. An emotional relationship with someone will be tested. Honesty will be important when discussing your feelings. Ask questions if you feel you are being given the runaround. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Follow the signs when it comes to an emotional relationship. An unusual lifestyle will attract your attention. Feeling comfortable with your surroundings will make the difference between struggling to reach your goals and excelling with ease. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stick to basics and the truth. You may want to passionately express your views, but if you deliver information that isn't factual, you will have to face the consequences. An emotional matter will hurt a relationship you cherish. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Surprise everyone by doing things a little differently. You will find a unique way to turn what you have into so much more. An interesting offer must not be tossed aside. Good fortune will result from a worthwhile partnership. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't take chances that might lead to emotional uncertainty. Do what you can to stabilize your personal life and make your residence conducive to building a brighter future. Put energy into something that will increase your income. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Personal time will be well-deserved and will help calm your nerves as you sort out your next move. Love is on the rise, and confessing your personal intentions will help you reach your goals more quickly. Good fortune is within reach. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have all the right moves and the initiative to make things happen.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8		6				5		1
				5				
			2	1	9			
		7				2		
	3	4				8	6	
		5				1		
			6	9	3			
				2				
2		8				9		6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	3	6	7	1	4	2	8
2	6	4	3	8	5	1	9	7
1	8	7	4	2	9	6	5	3
5	4	9	7	1	6	8	3	2
7	2	1	8	5	3	9	4	6
6	3	8	2	9	4	7	1	5
3	9	5	1	6	8	2	7	4
8	1	2	5	4	7	3	6	9
4	7	6	9	3	2	5	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ANDY GRIFFITH (1926-2012) **Solution: 7 letters**

M	M	S	C	S	L	E	T	O	H	E	A	R	T	S
W	U	A	R	S	M	A	Y	B	E	R	R	Y	O	A
I	R	R	T	E	Y	H	O	W	A	R	D	L	S	L
L	R	A	D	L	G	U	I	T	A	R	I	B	E	V
D	R	E	O	E	O	A	L	L	A	C	B	R	L	A
C	A	R	T	M	R	C	E	H	A	O	N	A	O	G
A	I	D	N	I	C	I	K	Y	L	C	S	Y	R	E
T	C	T	D	T	R	N	N	R	O	O	T	S	P	A
S	S	T	Y	Y	O	W	H	T	V	E	I	I	P	S
R	K	I	O	T	G	O	S	P	E	L	H	H	O	Ⓔ
N	F	C	T	R	N	A	N	E	I	X	I	D	Ⓟ	N
E	D	S	U	L	L	I	V	A	N	L	A	Ⓞ	I	S
L	L	I	H	L	E	P	A	H	C	F	Ⓗ	S	E	H
L	E	U	M	A	S	D	A	E	H	N	O	I	N	O
A	V	E	N	E	G	R	A	M	P	S	I	N	G	W

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Action, Actor, Allen, Barbara, Bray, Call, Carl, Chapel Hill, Cindi, City, Daddy, Dixie Nan, Ed Sullivan, Geneva, Gospel, Gramps, Guitar, Hearts, Hits, Hope, Hotel, Howard, Knotts, Love, Luck, Matlock, Mayberry, Murder in Texas, Noah, Onionhead, Opie, Phil, Roles, Roots, Salvage, Samuel, Show, Sing, Solica, Spy, Star, Taylor, Timeless, Wildcats, Writer, Yeagers

Yesterday's Answer: Routine

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CLASSIFIED ADS

LOOKING TO BUY VEHICLES

We're buying '95 & Up used cars! Transaction only within 30 mins. Call 287-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio.

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

CLOSING SALE

Closing out sale extended!! Everything must go!! 50% Off the price tag. Sale ends on September 7, 2012

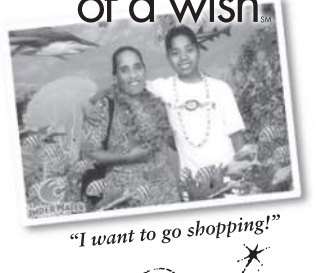
GARAGE SALE

Capitol Hill, next to Capitol Hill Market
Saturday (7am-12pm)
September 1, 2012

Princess House Crystals, Refrigerator, Couch, Dining Table and other household items.

Obyan and Kagman Property
FOR SALE
Call 256-4770/287-2680 for details

share the power of a wish℠



"I want to go shopping!"

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Saipan Tribune

WHATZIT Solution: A nod is as good as a wink

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Starting as low as... **$29.99**
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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

FOR RENT

4 bdrms, 2bath, newly renovated concrete hse & (2 units) of 1 bdrm at lower Asteo. Huge yard near ocean. Yard cleaning & trash collection included. Please call 2850622. Prices are negotiable.

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG has an opening for the following:

- Cook
- Cook Helper
- Merchandise Delivery Driver

Interested individuals may pick up an application in the guard station at the front gate.

We are located at Tun Herman pan Road and situated between the American Red Cross and the Historic Prevention Office.

Job Vacancy Announcement
Counsel (1)

Open: August 20, 2012
Closed: September 21, 2012
FLSA Status: Exempt

The CNMI Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is looking for an experienced Counsel. Detailed information about the requirement for the position and employment application may be obtained at the OPA website: http://www.opacnmi.com .

Interested applicants must submit all the required information by mail, email, or hand delivery at the office/email addresses listed below. Submission must be marked confidential and must have the applicant's name and returned address.

Office of the Public Auditor
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill • P. O. Box 501399, Saipan MP 96950
Email: jobs@opacnmi.com

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.
is looking for:

Nurse Supervisor (1 position)
$15.00 - $19.00 an hour

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program and management of hemodialysis inpatient and outpatient care.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- At least four years hemodialysis experience and plus three years as a charge nurse in dialysis.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified Nephrology Nurse-(CNN) Preferred.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit applications or resume to **Saint Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.**
at Chalan Kiya, Saipan

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
SALES ASSOCIATE

- Excellent Pay (top performers can make over $60,000 a year)
- Experienced Management and Leadership that includes continual "in house" training and support to improve skills and income
- Friendly, Team Orientated Environment
- Excellent employee benefits!

Microl Corporation is the leading automotive dealership retailing the top selling brand on Saipan….Toyota. Microl Corporation is part of the Inchcape group of companies, with 320+ employees on Guam and Saipan and we are currently seeking a Sales Associate who is highly motivated and career oriented to sell new and used vehicles at the No. 1 Dealership on Saipan.

Our sales positions are perfect for experienced sales people who are looking for a company who invest in people by providing training, coaching, leadership and motivation to succeed. Our sales management team is the best and most experienced in Saipan. Microl Corporation is one of the longest running companies in Saipan with the core values of Family, Community and Pursuit of being the No. 1 Dealer.

Skills and Capabilities:

- Must have a great attitude and be willing to constantly learn.
- Must be customer focused and consistently provide a high level of service.
- Must be passionate and energetic about helping customers during the buying process to ensure they feel great about their customer experience.
- Must have at least 2 years sales experience preferably in automotive sales.
- Must have good computer skills, a working knowledge of ADP Systems, Microsoft Office and Outlook Express.

If you would like to experience a great career opportunity with the Microl Corporation Team apply in person with your resume at Microl Corporation – Toyota in San Jose Village, Saipan MP 96950. Contact Doug Brennan, General Manager.

MICROL CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

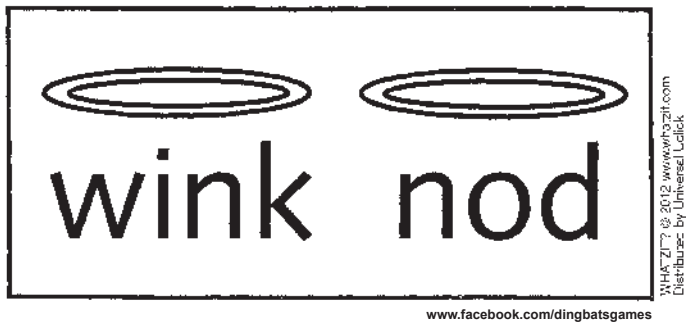
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Giants beat Astros to keep NL West lead

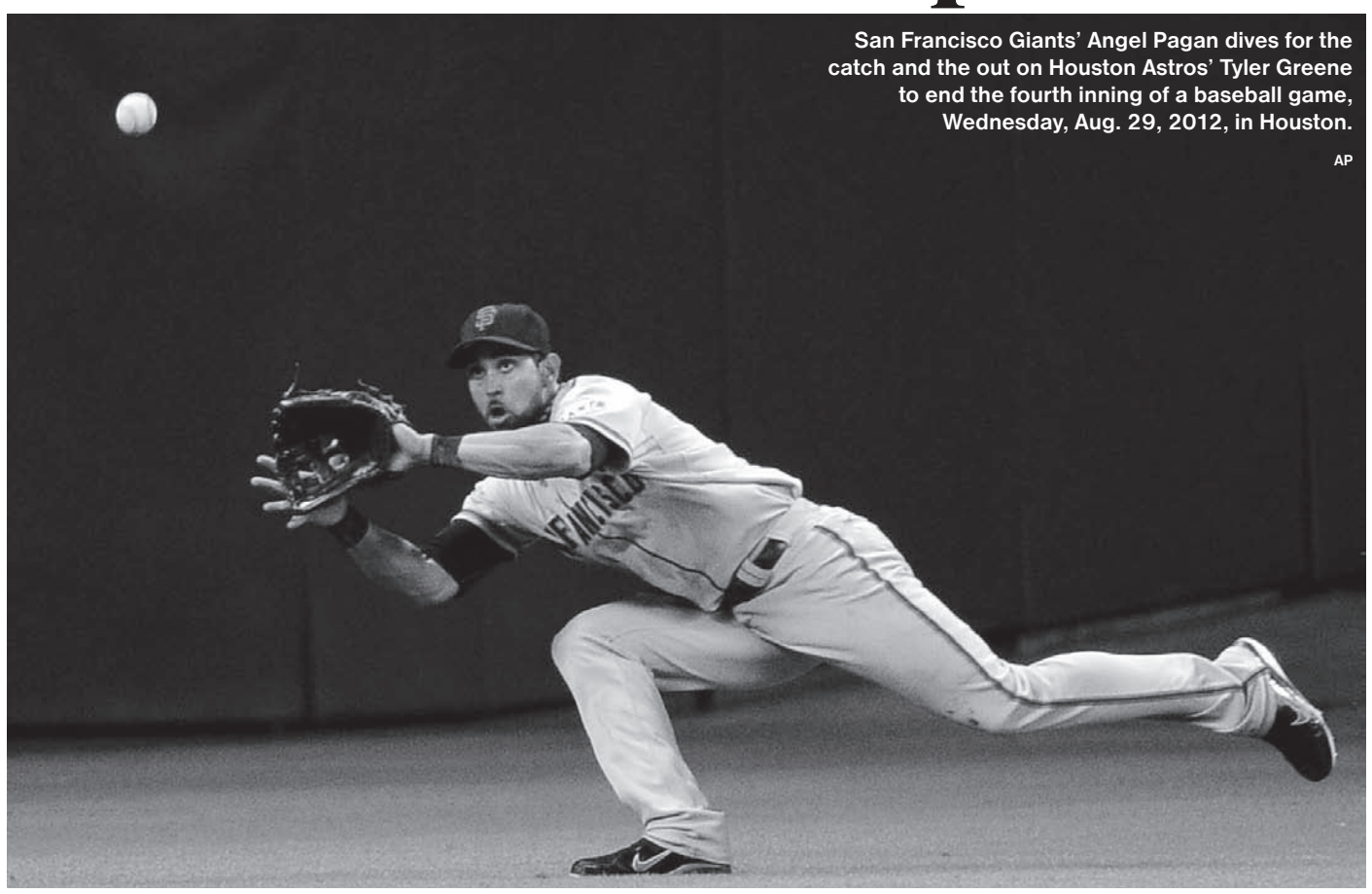
HOUSTON (AP)—When Barry Zito had already surrendered seven hits with one out in the third inning, San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy knew he needed to get him out of the game.

His early exit forced Bochy to use six relievers to piece together the game and hold on for the 6-4 win over the Houston Astros on Wednesday night.

''The bullpen really picked us up tonight," Bochy said. ''Z was a little off and we had to go get him early. They just did a terrific job of picking us up."

Hunter Pence hit a three-run homer and Joaquin Arias drove in two with a triple to help in the win.

Pence has been a nightmare for the Astros since they traded him away in July 2011, hitting four homers in just seven games against his former team with the Phillies and Giants.



San Francisco Giants' Angel Pagan dives for the catch and the out on Houston Astros' Tyler Greene to end the fourth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012, in Houston.

AP

Brewers 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, the Milwaukee Brewers are by no means a great road team—until they get to Wrigley Field.

Mike Fiers tossed 7 1-3 solid innings to lead the Brewers to a 3-1 win over the Cubs, their eighth straight victory against Chicago.

Nationals 8, Marlins 4

In Miami, Bryce Harper's first two-homer game ended with his latest tantrum.

The quick-tempered rookie was ejected for spiking his helmet in the ninth inning and drew a scolding from manager Davey Johnson, even though he helped the first-place Washington Nationals snap a five-game losing streak by beating the Miami Marlins. 8-4.

Pirates 5, Cardinals 0

In Pittsburgh, a special season on the verge of collapse, the Pittsburgh Pirates steadied themselves behind Pedro Alvarez.

The third baseman stayed hot, blasting his 26th homer of the season and driving in three runs as the Pirates rolled to a 5-0 victory over St. Louis. Alvarez's three-run shot in the third gave him seven home runs and 23 RBI in 15 games against the defending world champions.

Mets 3, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Lucas Duda showed off an all-around game on Wednesday.

Duda hit a go-ahead two-run homer and then preserved the lead with an excellent defensive play to back Matt Harvey and lift the New York Mets to a 3-2 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Duda even stole a base for the second time in his career.

Padres 8, Braves 2

In San Diego, the Padres finally have things sorted out in the owner's box and on the field.

Hours after closing an $800 million deal to buy the team, the third generation of the O'Malley family met the players and coaching staff, and then watched as Chase Headley and the Padres beat the Atlanta Braves, 8-2, for their ninth win in 10 games.

Reds 6, Diamondbacks 2

In Cincinnati, struggling through the first six innings, the Cincinnati Reds finally broke through to get a milestone win.

Chris Heisey hit two of Cincinnati's four home runs, including the tying two-run shot in the seventh inning, and the Reds went on to a 6-2 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Wednesday.

Dodgers 10, Rockies 8

In Denver, hoping to come together in time for a big finish to the season, the revamped Los Angeles Dodgers relied on holdovers and newcomers alike to get back on a winning track.

Joe Blanton pitched effectively into the eighth inning for his first win with Los Angeles and A.J. Ellis hit his first career grand slam in a 10-8 win over the Colorado Rockies.

Athletics 8, Indians 4

In Cleveland, after consecutive shutouts, the Oakland Athletics' pitching staff was OK with a little offensive outburst from their teammates.

Josh Donaldson hit a three-run homer and five pitchers combined to beat the struggling Cleveland Indians, 8-4.

Angels 10, Red Sox 3

In Anaheim, C.J. Wilson's famously positive mental attitude kept him from getting down on himself while he went two months without a win.

Thanks to a bountiful offensive night by his Angels teammates, Wilson is feeling even better now.

Kendrys Morales and Chris Iannetta hit early two-run homers, Wilson snapped his 11-start winless skid and Los Angeles jumped all over new Boston starter Zach Stewart in a 10-3 victory over the Red Sox.

Blue Jays 8, Yankees 5

In New York, Yunel Escobar got a much-needed break last week when he took three days off for the birt

It's made all the difference.

Escobar hit a two-run homer, three doubles and drove in five runs as Toronto beat the New York Yankees, 8-5, ending CC Sabathia's five years of dominance over the Blue Jays.

Rays 8, Rangers 4

In Arlington, the Tampa Bay's offense has sputtered at times this season.

For some reason, though, the Rays haven't had any problems figuring out All-Star Matt Harrison.

Evan Longoria homered twice, Tampa Bay roughed up Harrison and the Rays beat the Texas Rangers, 8-4, to snap a four-game losing streak.

Twins 10, Mariners 0

In Minneapolis, with commissioner Bud Selig and several Twins greats in town to celebrate the 2014 All-Star game coming to Target Field, it was Samuel Deduno that stole the show.

Deduno dominated for seven innings, Trevor Plouffe homered and had four RBIs, and the Minnesota Twins beat the Seattle Mariners, 10-0.

Royals 1, Tigers 0

In Kansas City, the Royals proved Wednesday night just how fickle baseball can be.

One night after roughing up Tigers ace Justin Verlander to win a stunning shootout, Kansas City saw crafty veteran Bruce Chen go eight innings in an equally surprising pitcher's duel with Anibal Sanchez. Eric Hosmer's shank single in the fourth score the lone run in a 1-0 victory.

White Sox 8, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, the night before White Sox rookie Dylan Axelrod was scheduled to pitch against the Baltimore Orioles, teammates Gordon Beckham and Paul Konerko pulled the right-hander aside and gave him something to think about.

The way Axelrod remembers it, the message was: ''The season is on the line. You've got to win this."

Axelrod delivered, allowing one run and three hits in 7 1-3 innings to guide Chicago to an 8-1 victory.

Armstrong says he's 7-time Tour de France champion

MONTREAL (AP)—Lance Armstrong introduced himself as a seven-time Tour de France champion at a cancer conference Wednesday.

"My name is Lance Armstrong. I am a cancer survivor," he said to open his speech to the World Cancer Congress. "I'm a father of five. And yes, I won the Tour de France seven times."

Armstrong announced last week he would no longer challenge the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency's drug charges against him. USADA threw out his competitive victories dating to 1998, which include all seven Tour wins.

Armstrong, who has maintained his innocence, focused on his experience as a cancer survivor and the work of his charitable foundation.

He said he struggled to get enough information following his diagnosis in 1996.

"After I left the doctor's office, I was grabbing every pamphlet and flyer I could off the wall," he said. "You know what we did after that? We went to the bookstore—remember those things."

Armstrong also announced his foundation would donate an additional $500,000 to a joint initiative aimed at increasing access to cancer care around the world.

Armstrong briefly returned to the doping scandal at the end of his remarks, vowing it wouldn't impact his charitable work.

"I think the real issue here is one of distraction," he said. "I'm going to tell this to you all as if you're friends and partners and allies. I'm not going to be distracted from this fight."

Later, hundreds of people joined Armstrong on an hour-long training run up Mount Royal. The runners cheered and tried to pose for photos with Armstrong when he arrived at a park.

Shortly after the run, Armstrong tweeted a message to his running partners: "Salut Montreal—Merci/Thanks for the run!! I had a blast."

Twins put Mauer on revocable trade waivers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Twins have placed All-Star catcher Joe Mauer on trade waivers, according to a report by Fox Sports.

Wait, what? Joe Mauer, about to be dealt by his hometown team?

The report on the network's website late Tuesday, attributed to an unidentified ''major league source," was enough to raise eyebrows around the sport. It said the waivers on Mauer expired Wednesday.

Twins general manager Terry Ryan declined to comment, citing Major League Baseball's policy prohibiting teams speaking publicly about the waiver wire. The process is supposed to be confidential.

The fact is that big-name, big-money guys like Mauer land on trade waivers in August all the time. Most players in the majors are run through the wire after the July 31 deadline for making non-waiver trades. This is usually not a sign of a team's desire to get rid of an expensive star but more of a procedural move to gauge potential interest in case a legitimate trade offer were to come about.

''Everybody in here's been through it at some point. We've all been run through in the past. It's a non-issue," said first baseman Justin Morneau. ''There are probably two guys in the league that don't go through it."

Mauer woke up to the news - and a flurry of phone calls and text messages from friends and family.

''It's part of the game. I was a little surprised about how much coverage, and how many questions I was asked about it," Mauer said.

Here's how it works:

■ Many teams run their entire roster through the waiver wire in August just to see what happens. If another club makes a claim on a player, the team that put the player on waivers can simply pull him back and move on.

■ The risk to a claiming club is that the team doing the waiving can decide to dump an unproductive, expensive player that way. Or the two clubs can work out a trade, which is what happened when the Boston Red Sox sent Josh Beckett, Carl Crawford and Adrian Gonzalez to the Los Angeles Dodgers last weekend in that whopper of a nine-player deal.

Mauer has a no-trade clause in his contract, so he'd have to approve of any deal. Plus, he's due $23 million annually through the 2018 season. That's a huge chunk of change for any team to take on, particularly for a player with a history of injuries who'll turn 30 next April.

And despite the criticism he faced last year while fighting weakness and soreness in his legs and playing in only 82 games in the first season of his mega-contract, Mauer remains a popular player here as a native of St. Paul who has spent his entire professional career with the organization he grew up cheering for.

Clijsters says goodbye with 2nd-round loss at Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Preparing for what she knew would be her last professional tennis tournament, Kim Clijsters—four-time Grand Slam title winner; mother of 4-year-old Jada—devoted her effort and energy to the U.S. Open.

Family time needed to wait a tad longer.

"She was like, `Why don't you come with us to go out, go for a walk?' I'm like, `Mama's almost done,'" Clijsters said Wednesday after her singles career ended where she wanted it to, just not the way she hoped. "So, yeah, I think she's going to be excited to kind of have her mom around more, on a more regular kind of basis."

Little Jada's gain is the tennis tour's loss.

Clijsters lost 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5) to 18-year-old Laura Robson of Britain in the second round of the U.S. Open, and will head into retirement after she finishes playing doubles at Flushing Meadows.

"It's been an incredible journey, and a lot of dreams for me have come true because of tennis. As a little girl, I got Christmas rackets under the tree and outfits of Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, and I would want to wear them to bed, I was so excited," Clijsters said. "So for me to have been able to have been a part of women's tennis, and on top of women's tennis for so many years—you don't think about it when you're in it; you're kind of on automatic pilot. ... Now that I think about it, it's been a crazy rollercoaster at times, as well."

She walked away from the sport once before, in May 2007, then returned after a hiatus of two-plus years. Now 29, the Belgian insisted this season that she means it this time, and decided the U.S. Open—and its hard courts that she conquered on the way to three championships—would be her final tournament.

"It's the place that has inspired me so much to do well and to do great things. It's hard to explain sometimes why," Clijsters said in an on-court interview, her face flushed and her eyes welling with tears.

"This completely feels like the perfect place to retire," Clijsters told the spectators at Arthur Ashe Stadium, many of whom rose to shower her with a standing ovation. "I just wish it wasn't today."

The loss Wednesday ended Clijsters' 22-match winning streak in New York, encompassing titles in 2005, 2009 and 2010, plus Monday's first-round victory.

She missed the hard-court major in 2004, 2006-08 and last year, thanks to a combination of injuries and the time she took off while starting a family. Clijsters was married in 2007, and Jada was born in February 2008. By August 2009, Clijsters was back on tour; unseeded and unranked, because she only played in two previous tournaments during her comeback, she won that year's U.S. Open.

AP

Kim Clijsters of Belgium waves to the crowd after she lost to Laura Robson of Great Britain in the second round of play at the 2012 US Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012, in New York.

"Since I retired the first time, it's been a great adventure for my team and my family," said Clijsters, who was 28-0 against players ranked outside the top 10 at the U.S. Open before Wednesday. "It's all been worth it. But I do look forward to the next part of my life coming up."

Her previous defeat at Flushing Meadows came against Belgian rival Justine Henin on Sept. 6, 2003, in the tournament final. Robson was 9 at the time.

This did have the feel, in some ways, of a changing of the guard.

Clijsters finished with a career singles record of 523-127 (a winning percentage of .805) and 41 titles, including her last major trophy at the 2011 Australian Open. She spent a total of 20 weeks ranked No. 1, as recently as February 2011.

"I hate to lose. My husband and I, we play ping pong in our garage, and I don't even want to give him a point," Clijsters said, rubbing her palms together.

Ranked 89th, and with only one prior victory over a woman ranked in the top 25, Robson has been viewed—particularly back home in Britain—as an up-and-coming player whose smooth left-handed strokes would carry her far.

But she had never produced the kind of grit and court-covering athleticism that carried her past the 23rd-seeded Clijsters. And until now, Robson never had won more than one match in a Grand Slam tournament; her claim to fame had been teaming for a silver medal in mixed doubles at the London Olympics with Andy Murray, who reached the U.S. Open's third round by beating 118th-ranked Ivan Dodig of Croatia 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 in the last match Wednesday night.

Joining Robson with a surprise victory was American wild-card entry Mallory Burdette, the NCAA runner-up who reached the third round in her Grand Slam debut by eliminating 69th-ranked Lucie Hradecka 6-2, 6-4.

"It's been a crazy ride," the 252nd-ranked Burdette said.

Could get even wilder: She next faces Sharapova, a 6-0, 6-1 winner Wednesday night over 78th-ranked Lourdes Dominguez Lino of Spain.

Earlier on Ashe, the highest-ranked American man, John Isner, let out a big exhale of relief while waving to the crowd after getting past an argumentative Xavier Malisse 6-3, 7-6 (5), 5-7, 7-6 (9) in the first round.

"I know in the nitty-gritty times of a match, I always have that confidence and all those wins in my back pocket," said Isner, who is 37-13 in tiebreakers this season.

The 6-foot-9 Isner hit 20 aces and ended things with a service winner on his third match point. That came after Malisse pushed an easy backhand volley into the net, then grabbed the ball and shoved it in his mouth and chomped on it as though it were an apple.

The 57th-ranked Malisse, a 2002 Wimbledon semifinalist, was louder and angrier during a few exchanges with the chair umpire and even members of the crowd, earning a warning for profanity.

"Half of the crowd doesn't understand what's going on," Malisse said. "They yell. We're in New York. So you're going to get more yells. That's fine by me. ... (But) I'm going to say something back."

There were no such shenanigans during Clijsters vs. Robson, simply plenty of terrific play.

With her husband—Brian Lynch, an American who used to play professional basketball in Belgium—fidgeting from his front-row seat in the stands, Clijsters wound up getting the worse of lengthy exchanges. As big a forehand as Clijsters owns, Robson was out-hitting her, compiling a 16-11 edge in winners off that wing.

Clijsters went up a break in the second set, helped by a pair of double-faults by a slightly shaky Robson—nerves that were understandable, given the setting and the significance of this match. But Robson got right back in it, playing gutsy, go-for-the-lines tennis, repeatedly pounding the ball hard as can be, and seeing shots land right where she aimed.

"I really enjoyed myself out there," said Robson, who found herself singing along to the pop songs that blare over loudspeakers during changeovers.

As you might expect from a teen, the youngest player ranked in the WTA's top 100.

Try as she might, Clijsters could not quite gain the upper hand, no matter how many times she yelled "Come on!" and raised a clenched fist after winning points.

On one well-disguised drop shot by Robson, Clijsters raced forward and did her trademark splits through the doubles alley, stretching to get her racket on the ball. But her response landed in the net.

"I just wasn't good enough at the end of the match," Clijsters acknowledged.

And now? What does she look forward to the most?

The answer came quickly: "Being home."

Jets would turn to Tebow if Sanchez goes down

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—It'll be Tebow Time for the New York Jets if Mark Sanchez goes down with an injury.

Coach Rex Ryan said Wednesday that Tim Tebow would be the starting quarterback this season if Sanchez was sidelined for any significant amount of time instead of turning to a more conventional-style signal caller such as third-stringer Greg McElroy—which some fans and media have speculated might be the case.

"I think Tebow would expand his role," Ryan said. "We feel good about what Tim can do."

Tebow is listed as the No. 2 quarterback, so it would seem obvious that he would be the guy to fill in. But the fact the Jets plan to use Tebow in specific packages raised some questions over whether he would remain in that role if Sanchez were hurt.

"We don't speculate what the situation is," McElroy said. "Obviously, Tim's a fantastic player and I think he would do a great job in that role, but we don't want to worry about a situation like that. Mark is our starter and we're going to follow him the best way we know how, and that's really what we're going to focus on.

"If something were to happen down the road, God forbid, we'll figure it out then."

While Ryan didn't specifically address what the game plan would be, it would appear that the Jets would change up their offense a bit to play into Tebow's strengths—as Denver did last season when he took over for Kyle Orton—rather than have him play in New York's normal offense that's set up for Sanchez.

Neither Sanchez nor Tebow will play in the team's preseason finale Thursday night at Philadelphia, but McElroy is expected to take the bulk of the snaps with fourth-stringer Matt Simms also seeing some action. McElroy, a seventh-round pick out of Alabama last year, has seen limited action in the preseason as Sanchez and Tebow have gotten most of the playing time.

He went 4 of 6 for 49 yards in the exhibition opener against Cincinnati, which was his first game action since dislocating his right thumb while playing against Philadelphia last preseason.

"It's been a while since I've been out there for an extended amount of time, so I'm excited," McElroy said.

Ryan has been impressed by McElroy's development since this time a year ago.

"I think he has shown a stronger arm," Ryan said. "Clearly, we always knew he's a smart guy. I think he has a good grasp of our system."

And, McElroy will be in charge of an offense on Thursday that has failed to get into the end zone all preseason. The Jets have gone three preseason games without a touchdown, matching the 1977 Atlanta Falcons for offensive ineptitude.

So, if McElroy gets the Jets in on his first drive, might there be a bit of a quarterback controversy, after all—or at least a chance to give Sanchez and Tebow a little grief?

"Not at all," McElroy said, laughing. "This is a team effort. ... If we can score some points, we're obviously going to try to do that."

Oceanside bets lead in A and Tuesday B leagues

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Oceanside Bar & Grill's Mafia and Triple Threat front the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Summer/Fall Bud Light Dart League A and Tuesday B divisions after this week's games.

Mafia downed SOS Bar & Grill's 101 Proofers (31-37), 12-5, at home last Monday to improve to a 49-19 record and grab the top spot in A league. Four games back sits Oceanside's Bud Brothers (45-40), who absorbed a 7-10 upset to SOS's fourth-ranked Outlawz (34-34).

SOS's Mixblood Shooters (43-42) are positioned strongly in third after capping a 10-7 victory over Sand's Bar's Juvy Predators (27-41). Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Sabalu Boyz (26-42) was on a bye this week.

Notables include a 140 high-in by Mafia's Jess Villar and a 131 high-out by 101 Proofers' Rolly Bermiso.

Triple Threat went into SOS and routed the Dartaholiks (40-35), 11-4, to gain a 54-21 slate and keep the Tuesday B league lead. Triple Threat leads VFW Post 3457's Delubyo (48-27) by six games with the rest of the pack trailing by double digits.

Delubyo defeated third-ranked Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Na'Gupu II (44-31), 9-6, on the road. Oceanside's Good Guys (31-34) pulled off a 10-5 upset at home over SOS's Seabridge 80 Proofers (37-38), while Waterfront's K-1 Scorpions (29-46) routed Oceanside's Wreckless Precision (17-58) on the road, 11-4.

Notables include a 150 high-in by K-1 Scorpions' Anson Jones and a 100 high-out by Triple Threat's George Medina.

Meanwhile, Jonny's Bar & Grill's Try Luck and DPL-Sakude III are the current front-runners in the Ladies and Inter-Government groupings.

Try Luck (57-18) strengthen its command over the Ladies' field to four games, following a 12-3 home win over SOS's Wonder Women (34-41).

Bammy's Momes'I Mei Mei (53-22) is still in firing range, however, thanks to an 11-4 road victory over Oceanside's G-Side Shooters (26-49).

In other results, third place Es'y Kitchen's B-52 Shooters (46-29) stomped Joe's Steakhouse's Daffodils (16-59), 12-3, at home and Joe's Just Like That (33-42) triumphed over Naked Fish's Man-Amigas (35-40), 9-6.

Notables include a 152 high-in by Try Luck's Rita Fitial and a 106 high-out by B-52 Shooters' Samy Atalig.

DPL-Sakude III hemmed up SOS's DPS-Bad Boyz (15-30), 12-3, at home last Friday to to improve to a 34-11 card and retain the top spot, while the second-ranked Bammy's Team CUC (37-23) squished Naked Fish's NMC Proa (7-38), 13-2, on the road. Naked Fish's CRMO-Primos (27-18) was on a bye last week.

Notables include a 158 high-in by NMC Proa's Odin Garces and a 113 high-out by CRMO-Primos' Jayson John.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Waterfront's K-1 Scorpions, pictured in this recent file photo, ran over Wreckless Precision, 11-4, in the Tuesday B of the SEDA league held at Oceanside Bar & Grill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Team CUC, pictured in this recent file photo, rolled over NMC Proa, 13-2, in SEDA's Inter-Government division matchup held at Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

TWO

From Page 32

lowing KFC to recover from a 7-20 deficit in the first period.

Dela Rosa was off in the majority of the game and returned only in the final two minutes, replacing JR Deleon Guerrero. He then nailed only his third basket of the night, making a putback off Angelo Fernando's muffed jumper to give KFC more breathing space, 58-55.

A Leo Galarse drive cut the lead to one anew, 58-57, with 56 seconds remaining on the clock, but Dela Rosa converted another shot in the shaded lane off Sii Mafi's feed to make it another 3-point game, 60-57.

Galarse was well covered on MBI's next offensive play, forcing Bernard Samson to take matters into his own hands, but faltered on his drive from the right wing. Mafi grabbed the defensive board, leading to a Fernando fastbreak layup.

Down by five, 57-62, with less than a minute left, Galarse took a hurried triple and missed. MBI was then forced to give up a preemptive foul and the ploy paid off for a while, as Ralph Francisco went 0-for-2 from the foul line. However, Mafi collared another rebound and made the putback for the insurance, 64-57, 15 seconds left on the clock.

KFC settled for the 7-point win after almost wasting a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter. The defending champion led at the end of the end, 44-41, and started the fourth with a 7-0 blast for a 51-41 advantage. KFC and MBI then had quick exchanges, keeping the former's double-digit lead, 55-45, before the latter launched its own 10-1 rally, to move within one, 55-56, going into the last two minutes of play.

MBI could have taken the lead if not for its poor performance from the foul line. Dexter Tenorio, who drilled all his first four charities, went 0-for-2 in his next trip to the stripe in the fourth, Noel David missed all six, and Samson was 1-for-2. KFC fans got into the nerves of MBI players stepping on the 15-foot line.

Fernando paced KFC with his 23 points, while Francisco added 11. Galarse top-scored for MBI with his 21 markers, posting 10 of them in the first period to lift his team to an early double-digit lead before Fernando and company recovered in the next frame and stole the win in the second half.

Gualo Rai 74, QQ 63

In the first game, Gualo Rai broke into the win column after three fruitless attempts, following its 11-point victory over QQ Rent A Car.

Jun Estolas and Alex Lauron led Gualo Rai's first win, firing 23 and 20 markers, respectively. Gualo Rai led from start to finish, as QQ failed to stop Estolas and Lauron.

Lauron sizzled for 10 early points, powering Gualo Rai to a 21-14 advantage at the end of the first period. Lauron was then held to 4 points in the second canto, but Estolas picked up the slack, converting two triples and adding four more points to keep Gualo Rai in front at halftime, 37-33.

The Gualo Rai 1-2 punch then teamed up for 10 of the team's last 12 points in the third to keep QQ at bay, and Estolas held strong in the fourth, chipping in 7 more markers to thwart QQ.

QQ, which tied Gualo Rai's 1-3 record, drew 27 points from Elgene Mangali, who failed to lift his team to a win after getting only little support from his teammates. Kermit Concepcion also finished in twin digits for QQ with his 16 markers, but he could not score in streak.

First Game

Gualo Rai 74 – Estolas 24, Lauron 20, Diaz 7, Dayrit 6, Babauta 3, Morales 2, Jose 2.

QQ Rent A Car 63 – Mangali 27, Cocepcion 16, Tuwon 6, Sison 4, Acosta 4, Bondoc 2, Montes 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 37-33, 55-47, 74-63.

Second Game

KFC/Taco Bell 64 – Fernando 23, R. Francisco 11, Maranan 9, Dela Rosa 8, Mafi 8, Lee 4.

MBI 57 – Galarse 21, Trajano 8, Samson 8, David 7, Hernandez 4, Tenorio 4, Mendoza 4.

Scoring by quarters: 7-20, 22-29, 44-41, 64-57.

YANKEES

From Page 32

Brewers hit the board and bounced back to within a run in the bottom of the fourth inning off three hits. The Brewers' Clifton Silil and Manny Sablan both touched all four.

Ben Jones Jr. belted another one-out single in the top of the fifth inning, snuck over again to second, and scored his third run of the day off an unforced error for a 4-2 Yankees' advantage.

However, the Brewers knotted the game at 4-all in the bottom frame. Ton Guerrero led off the Brewers' exchange with a base rip and was squeezed home with a well placed bunt by Silil, while Darren Pua made it on and around off errors as the Yankees went for a pitching change to get out of dodge.

Bobby Castro was tapped to relieve Greg Isakawa and the latter did a good job putting out the fire, however they came up empty at the plate as well in the top of the sixth frame.

The Yankees' Dave Camacho then stepped on the hump at the start of the sixth frame and ended up going the distance, while Brewers' starter Vince Cepeda made it through seven innings on the mound before getting rattled by the Yankees.

After Salas led off the eighth with a single, Chris Camacho stepped in next and laid down a routine bunt to the pitcher, but Cepeda elected to go for the force out at second base and his throw sailed too high, enabling runners on the corners with zero outs.

Yankees' catcher Robert Bansil then drove in Salas with a fielder's choice and Cepeda bagged a ground out before hitting the showers.

Thomas Camacho took over from there and committed an uncharacteristic balk that moved the runners to second and third base. Chris Camacho scored off an ensuing error before the Brewers escaped the nightmare inning.

The Brewers were able to muster only one run in the bottom frame off a two-out double by Guerrero. He batted 2-for-3 with a run, a stolen base, and a base on balls to go with his one RBI.

Jones Jr. and Salas accounted for five of the Yankees' seven runs. Salas swung 2-for-3 with a stolen base and two base on balls.

4 TEAMS

From Page 32

teams are very excited and will surely put on a good show, especially because of the great prizes that are up for grabs," said SMLBA's Rose Igitol in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"Having equipment is a big help to these young athletes and I am especially grateful that even the last place team will receive a prize," she added.

Igitol, the event organizer, said they selected the SMLBA U18 youth squads to participate in the Tan Holdings tournament after not receiving any feedback from the public announcement, which was circulated in *Saipan Tribune* last Aug. 14.

In addition to baseball, the Tan Holdings sportsfest will also feature basketball, soccer, badminton and bowling competitions. The sportsfest kicked off last Sunday with a mountain bike race in Marpi.

MIEKO

From Page 32

pan champion also took time out to recall how she struggled on her first year of doing triathlon and how former Saipan triathletes Dawn Hammermeister and Sue Knect showed patience in guiding her.

"I still remember I hated MTB and road bike when I started triathlon. When I had a pre-ride with Dawn and Sue during my first year in XTERRA (2006), I could not ride up to Mt. Tapochao. I had to walk with my bike," Carey said.

According to the XTERRA website, Carey went on to win the 25 to 29 age group of the 2006 and 2007 XTERRA Saipan and placed second in 2008 and third in the 30 to 34 age group in her debut in XTERRA World Championships in Hawaii in 2008.

She then turned pro in 2009 and from that year, she has consistently placed in the Top 5 in XTERRA Saipan besides winning XTERRA Japan from 2009 to 2011 and finishing second in XTERRA Malaysia in 2009.

"I can not find the right words to thank you all. I will not become a pro without all of your help. I will keep training hard and come back to win in 2013," the four-year pro said.

Meanwhile, Carey's fellow triathletes and Wolf Mojica, president of Taga, Inc. which organizes XTERRA Saipan wished the former's good luck.

"You are an inspiration and represented the CNMI very well. We wish you good luck on your next journey," wrote Ben Babauta in his response to Carey's mass email.

"So sorry to see you moving to Guam. You are Saipan's only professional athlete. But I know that you will be back for the Saipan Sportsfest [XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman]. See you at the Hell [Hell of Marianas this December]," Mojica said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	75	55	.577	—
Baltimore	71	58	.550	3½
Tampa Bay	71	59	.546	4
Boston	62	69	.473	13½
Toronto	58	71	.450	16½

Central Division

Chicago	72	57	.558	—
Detroit	69	60	.535	3
Kansas City	58	71	.450	14
Cleveland	55	75	.423	17½
Minnesota	53	77	.408	19½

West Division

Texas	77	53	.592	—
Oakland	72	57	.558	4½
Los Angeles	68	62	.523	9
Seattle	63	68	.481	14½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	78	51	.605	—
Atlanta	74	57	.565	5
New York	61	69	.469	17½
Philadelphia	61	69	.469	17½
Miami	59	72	.450	20

Central Division

Cincinnati	80	52	.606	—
St. Louis	71	59	.546	8
Pittsburgh	70	60	.538	9
Milwaukee	62	67	.481	16½
Chicago	49	80	.380	29½
Houston	40	90	.308	39

West Division

San Francisco	73	57	.562	—
Los Angeles	70	61	.534	3½
Arizona	64	67	.489	9½
San Diego	61	71	.462	13
Colorado	53	76	.411	19½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Docomo Red vs Loving Hands in U17 finals

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Docomo Red's Erick Dela Rosa goes up strong to the basket during their semis game against Proa in the U17 division of the Docomo caging last Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAD
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REPORTER

Docomo Red and Loving Hands Daycare advanced to the finals of the U17 division of the 3rd Docomo Pacific Summer Basketball League after beating separate opponents last Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketbal Court.

Docomo Red outlasted Proa, 57-50, in the curtain raiser, while the top-ranked Loving Hands torched the Rollers, 77-29, in the second feature to arrange their best-of-three finals series. Game 1 will be played tomorrow at 5:30pm, while Game 2 is set for 9:30am at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Game 3, if necessary, will take place in Garapan on Monday at 5:30pm

Docomo Red established a 33-28 advantage in the opening 20 minutes, built primarily off the 17 points of do-it-all shooting guard John Darag. John Capuyon drained two three-pointers for 14 markers to help keep Proa in contention at the half before he was held to just one basket in the second frame.

Darag sunk three treys in the clutch and received 8 points from Mike Mancao late in the game to hand Docomo the first finals berth. Darag nailed six long balls from behind the arch and finished with a game-high 26 points and Mancao chipped in 18, while Capuyon had 16 on Proa's end.

In the second match, Loving Hands jumped out to a promising 33-12 lead at halftime and never looked back.

Jaymark De Guzman led a plethora of Loving Hands scorers with 8 points in the first half, while Rollers' VJ Nakayama and Dixon kwon combined for only 9 markers.

Things then went from bad to worse for the Rollers crew in the closing period, as Kwon was shut out at crunch time and his partner in crime, Nakayama, only managed one bucket.

Although Rollers point man Irvyn Malonzo scrambled for 8 points in distress, he did not receive enough support from the rest of his teammates.

On the other hand, Loving Hands had no trouble orchestrating its transition offense from the get go. It slowed its offense down a bit at the start of the second half before its shooters heated up from long range and dropped five three-balls in the closing period.

Jack Aranda led the well-balanced second half attack with his 8 points, as it was all Loving Hands from start to finish. In the end, it was Emerson Feria who led a handful of teammates in double-digits with his 14 points.

U25 playoffs start tonight

In related news, the U25 playoffs tip off tonight in Garapan with Shottas taking on GVH at 5:30pm and the Saints clashing with the R-Rebels at 6:30pm. Winners of the two matches will advance to the best-of-three finals.

Game 1 of the U25 title showdown is set for this Sunday at 10:30am at the Ada gym, while Game 2 is slated for Monday in Garapan at either 5:30pm or 6:30pm, depending on the U17 results. If rain drenches the court in Garapan on Monday, games will be moved to the Ada gym.

First Game

Docomo Red 57 – Darag 26, Mancao 18, Dela Rosa 8, Suarez 3, Bai 2

Proa 50 – Capuyon 16, J. Palacios 10, De Leon 8, Mendoza 7, Camacho 6, Deleon Guerrero 1.

Scoring by halves: 33-28, 57-50

Second Game

Loving Hands 77 – Feria 14, Alegre 12, Aranda 12, Lansang 11, Deguzman 11, Escalada 6, Ramos 6, Villanueva 4.

Rollers 29 – Malonzo 8, Nakayama 6, Cayading 5, Iglesias 5, Kwon 5.

Scoring by halves: 33-12, 77-29

Kanoa Resort hosts women's caging; clinic starts today

The Kanoa Resort will be hosting a women's basketball competition next month.

Dubbed as the Kanoa Resort Women's Fall Basketball League, the event will first hold a two-day clinic before kicking off the competition at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

The first clinic will be held today, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, while the second one will take place tomorrow, from 2pm to 4pm.

The league and the clinic are open to players in the 12-and-above age group and entrance fee is only $5 per player. Players must sign registration and waiver forms, which should also be signed my parents of participants in the U18 age group.

At the end of the second clinic, players' selection will begin, unless players have already formed their own team. Each team can have a maximum of 10 players and organizers are looking to have four to six squads.

Games will be played three times a week or every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and the league will implement a double round-robin format in the elimination round. Playoffs format has yet to be decided.

For more information, contact Irish Pagarao at 789-8311 or Mae Ito at 235-8747 ext 148 or 287-3607. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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A chance at fantastic Hole-In-One prizes
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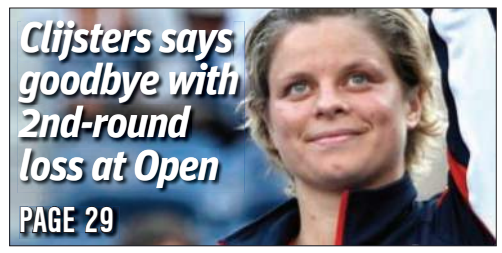
Giants beat Astros to keep NL West lead
PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune
Sports



Clijsters says goodbye with 2nd-round loss at Open
PAGE 29

Yankees draw first blood in SML finals

The Yankees' Robert Bansil gets ready to bring home the go-ahead run during Game 1 of their SML title series against the Brewers last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Stevedore Company Yankees sparked a three-run surge in the eighth inning to pedal away with a 7-5 victory over the pennant champion Tan Holdings Brewers in Saipan Major League Baseball Association' finals series opener last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The game was tied at 4-all after seven innings, as Ben Jones Jr. of the visiting Yankees scored three times to force a deadlock and the game came down to whichever team blinked first.

The Brewers were the first to fall, as they committed a couple of wild throws from infield in the eighth inning, allowing the Yankees to take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five title series.

Game 2 will be played tomorrow at 6:30pm with defense likely to make the difference in the title showdown as shown in the series opener. All 12 runs scored in Game 1 were unearned.

Ben Jones Jr. led off the game with a walk and stole second base before breaking the ice off an error. He then connected with a one-out single in the top of the third inning and scored off another error, while Chris Camacho drove home Jonathan Salas to give the Yankees a 3-0 lead.

Both teams went three up and three down after that before the

See YANKEES on Page 30

Mieko thanks supporters, vows to join Saipan races

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mieko Carey will continue competing on Saipan despite her impending relocation in Guam.

"I will keep coming back here to join different events," said Carey, who raced for Saipan for the last time during the 2012 XTERRA Japan in Marunuma last Saturday and informed her fellow triathletes of her transfer to Guam through a mass email sent to the triathlon group's unofficial social media account.

Carey said it was on Saipan where she started doing triathlon eight years ago and the island and the people he met here will always have a special place on her heart

"Time flies very fast. Now I have to say goodbye and a big thank you to all. I could not keep racing, training, and getting stronger without all of you," the 34-year-old athlete said.

The three-time XTERRA Ja-

See MIEKO on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mieko Carey is seen here heading to the finish of last year's Hell of Marianas.

Two in a row for KFC/Taco Bell

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

One team's streak ended, another's has just started.

Micronesian Brokers, Inc. had its three-game winning run snapped by defending champion KFC/Taco Bell, which pulled off a 64-57 win in their second-game duel in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

KFC, which defeated Wushin Express last Friday, 84-65, got its third victory, but recorded only its first winning run after an inconsistent performance in their first three games.

Erick Dela Rosa canned back-to-back baskets in the paint in the last two minutes, while MBI missed a lot of free throws in the fourth quarter, al-

See TWO on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
KFC/Taco Bell's Joon Lee, bottom, and MBI's Leo Galarse battle for the loose ball during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

4 teams vie for Tan Holdings baseball title

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The four teams competing in the Saipan Major League Baseball Association's Triple A Championship Summer Youth Baseball League will also vie for top honors in the Tan Holdings 40th Anniversary Sports Festival.

The four squads will be named POI Aviation Reds, the Kanoa Resort Rockies, the D&Q Distributors Dodgers, and the Fiesta Resort & Spa Orioles.

Besides the bragging rights, also at stake in the competition over the next two weekends is the $1,500 worth of sports equipment. The first place team will also get $500 worth of gift certificate, while consolation coupons worth $400, $300, and $200 will go to the last three finishers. SMLBA will also receive $500 cash and $500 worth of equipment.

With the SMLBA coupling its youth league with Tan Holdings' sports festival, organizers decided to hold an opening ceremony tomorrow at 9am at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. SML and Tan Holdings officials are expected to grace the opening rites.

Then the triple-header will start at 10am and the last two matches are set for 12pm and 3pm. Annother triple feature is set for this Sunday with the playoffs and finals slated for next weekend.

The managers agreed to couple the games because bad weather has hindered the youth league's original schedule. The start of the new school semester was also a factor in the decision.

"On behalf of SMLBA, we want to give Tan Holdings a big thanks for giving us the opportunity to participate in its sportsfest. I can attest that the

See 4 TEAMS on Page 30